

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 98


18p



A deadly hit-and-run battle on the frontier world of Arcos spelled trouble for Earth. Because Arcos was

THE LAST PLANET

STARBLAZER



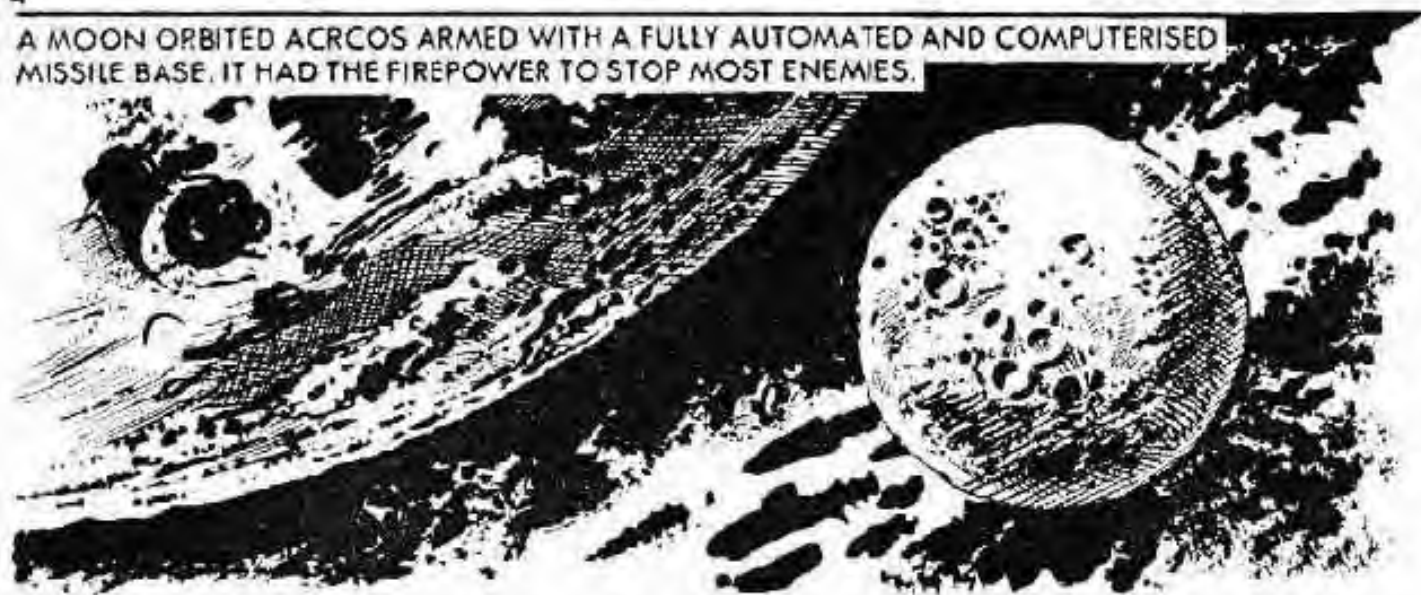
Habitable planets were rare in The Galaxy, and the various races stopped at nothing in their search to find them. The rewards were tremendous, for light years around the riches of space were yours. There was only one galactic law—it was yours if you could keep it. When Earth force discovered Arcos in an area of space richer than anywhere ever discovered, there was trouble. Because it was—

The LAST PLANET

THE EARTH FORCE GARRISON ON ARCOS WAS COMPLETELY IMPREGNABLE. IT SHELTERED UNDER A FORCE FIELD DOME THAT NOTHING IN THE GALAXY COULD BREAK. BEFORE ANYONE COULD TAKE ARCOS, THEY HAD FIRST TO TAKE THE GARRISON.



A MOON ORBITED ACRCOS ARMED WITH A FULLY AUTOMATED AND COMPUTERISED MISSILE BASE. IT HAD THE FIREPOWER TO STOP MOST ENEMIES.



ON A DISTANT ASTEROID, EARTH MINING SHIPS WERE AT WORK GUARDED BY A SINGLE FIGHTER.

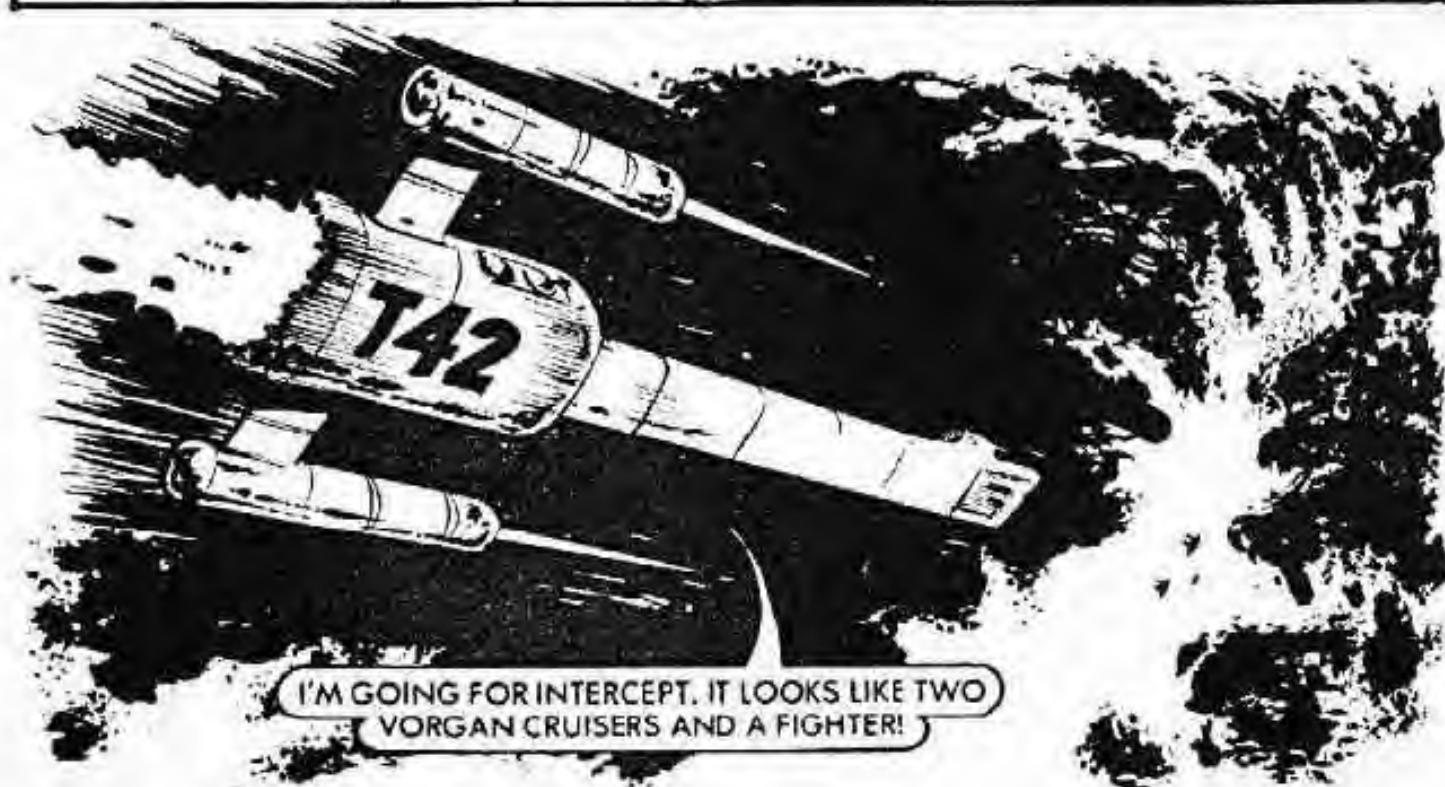
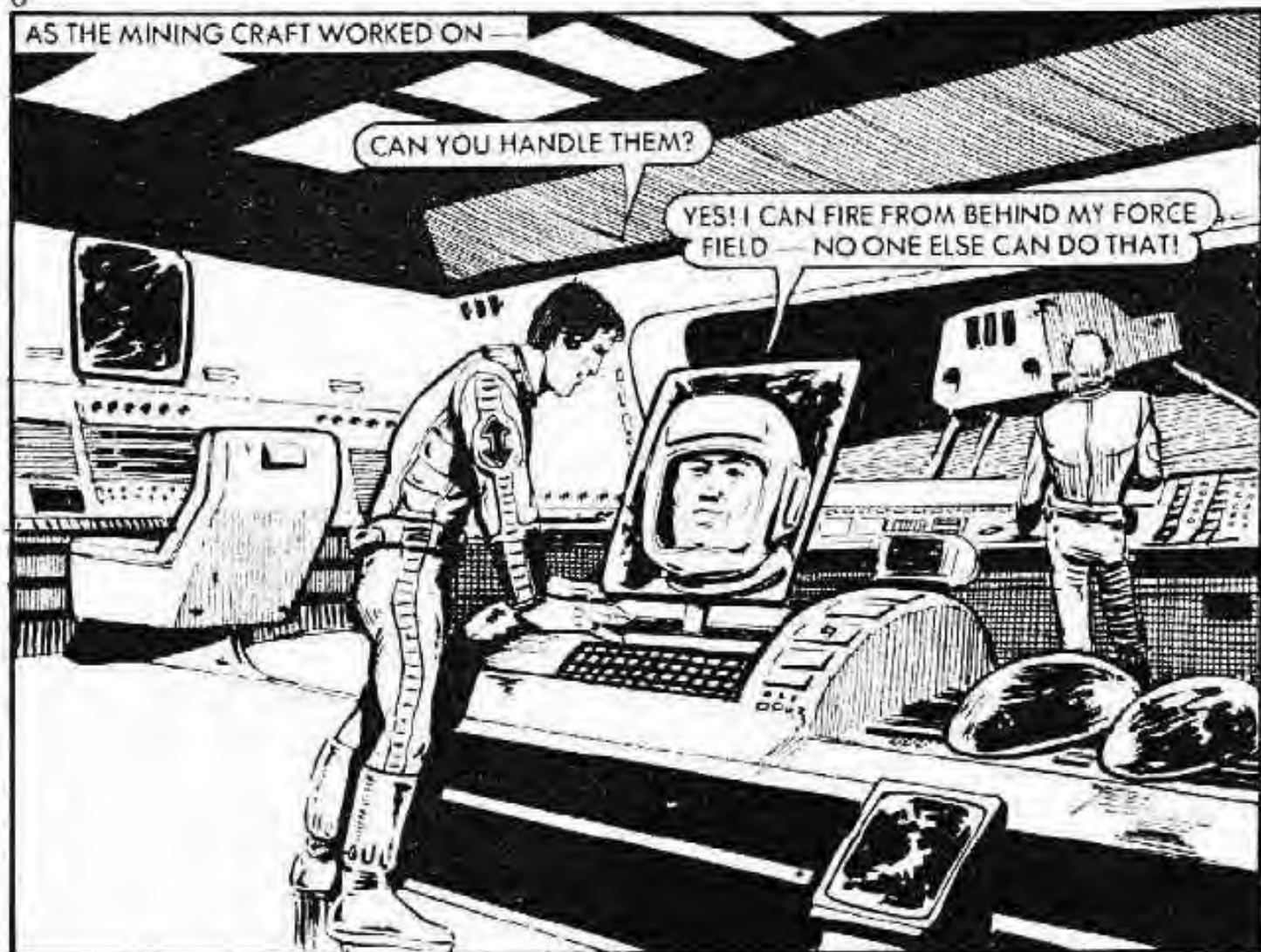




AS THE MINING CRAFT WORKED ON —

CAN YOU HANDLE THEM?

YES! I CAN FIRE FROM BEHIND MY FORCE
FIELD — NO ONE ELSE CAN DO THAT!



I'M GOING FOR INTERCEPT. IT LOOKS LIKE TWO
VORGAN CRUISERS AND A FIGHTER!

THE VORGAN FIGHTER RACED FORWARD —

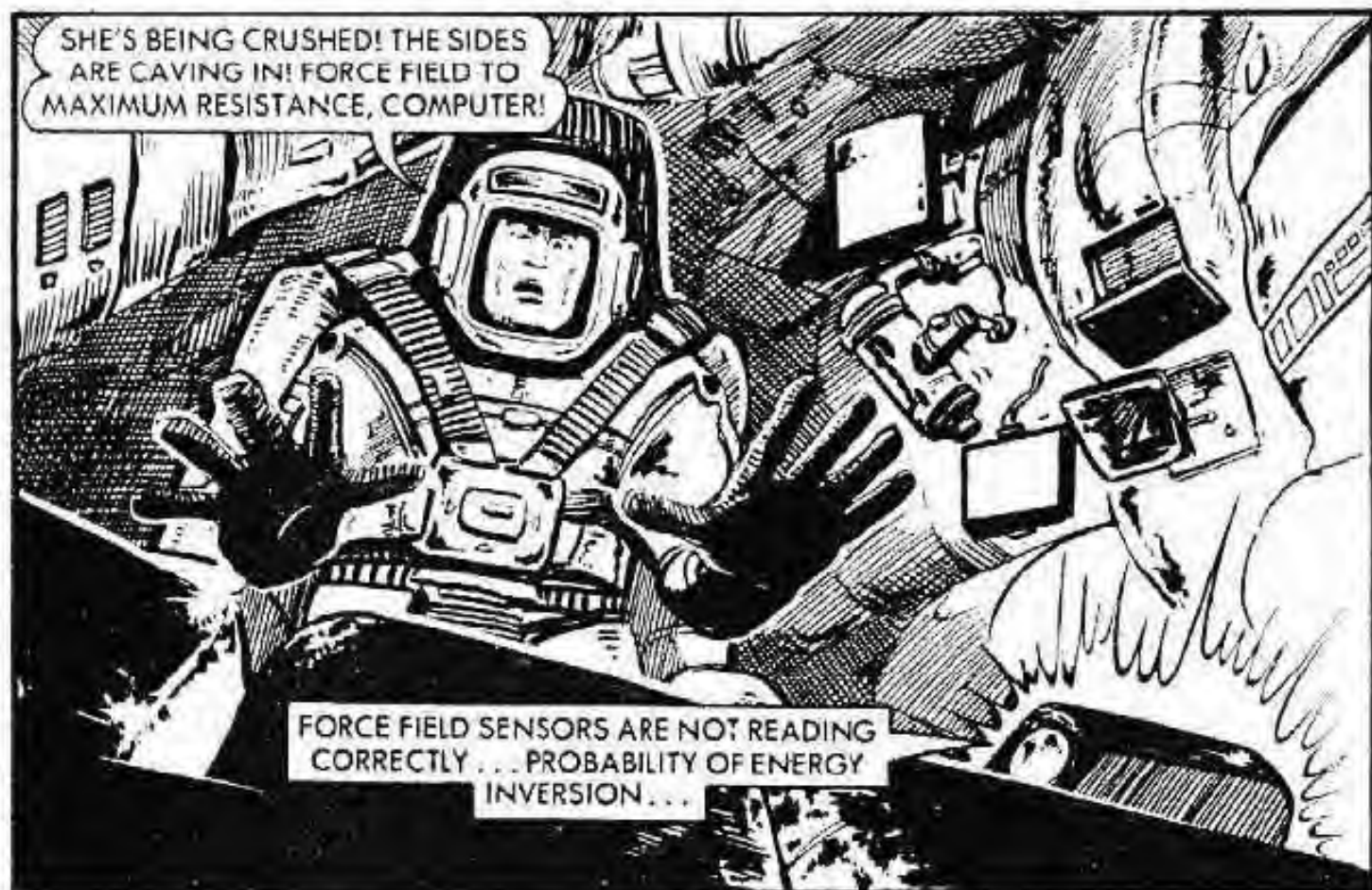
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TOO SLOW, VORGAN.

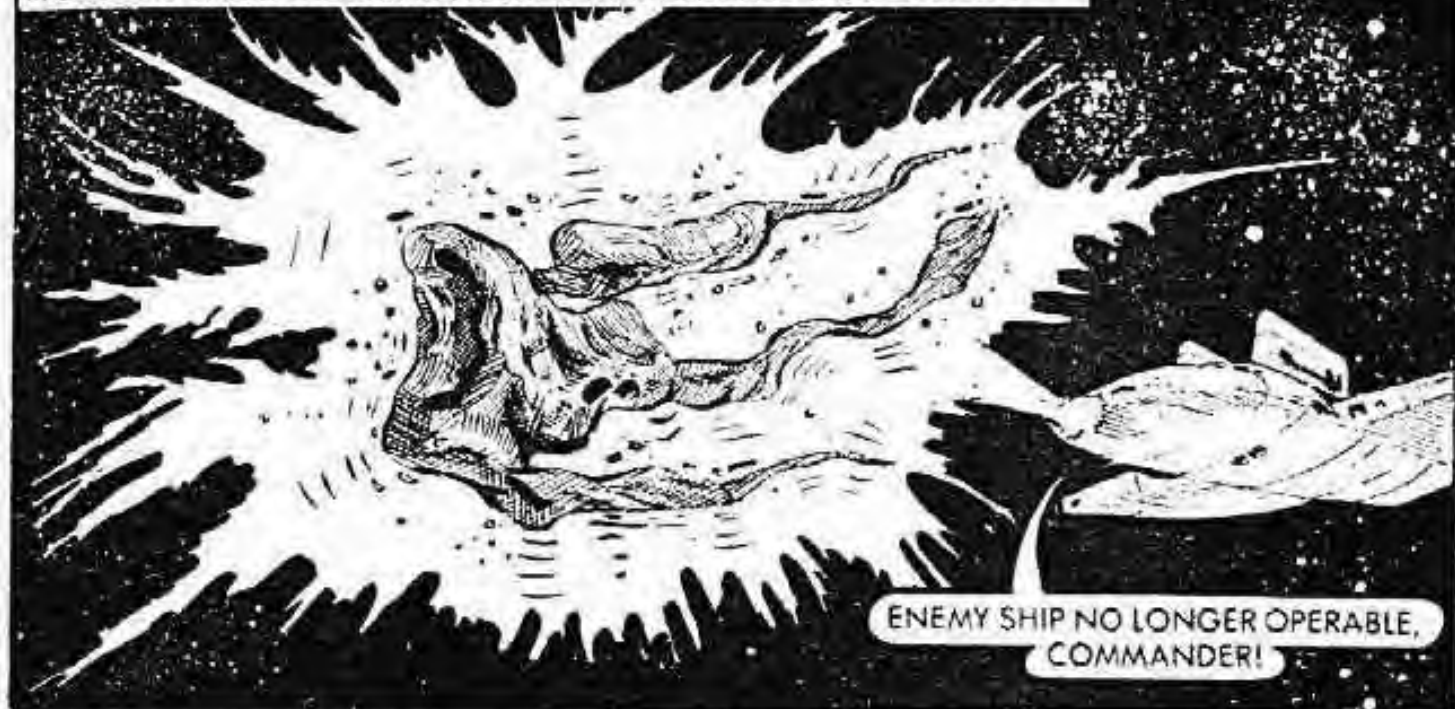


I'LL TRY FOR THOSE CRUISERS, BUT
I'LL NEED TO GET CLOSE!

AS THE PILOT CLOSED WITH THE CRUISERS, HIS SHIP WAS CAUGHT IN TWO BEAMS OF LIGHT.



9
A SECOND LATER THE EARTH FIGHTER WAS CRUSHED INTO OBLIVION —



ENEMY SHIP NO LONGER OPERABLE,
COMMANDER!

ON BOARD A VORGAN CRUISER —

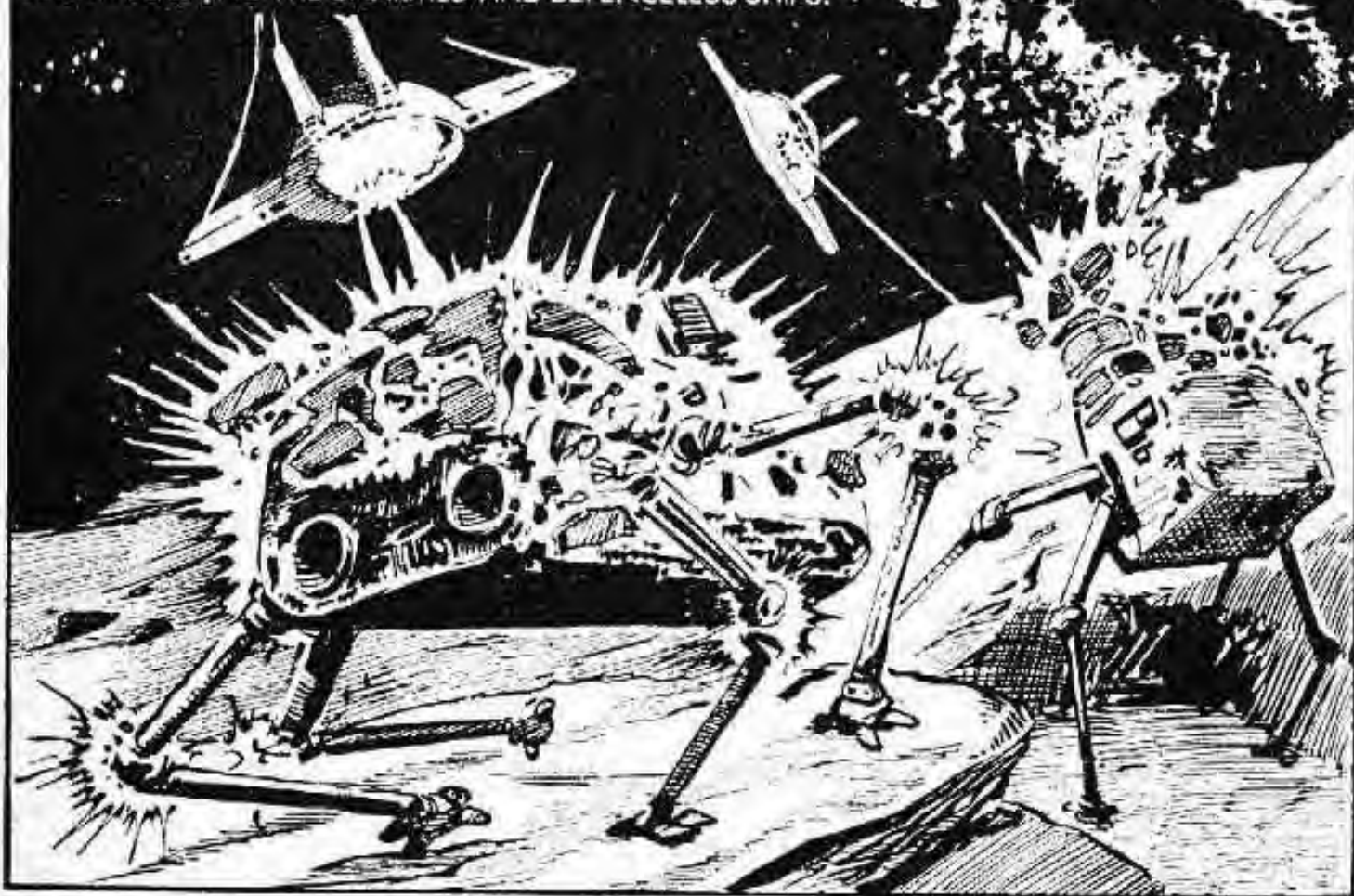
THE NEW FORCE FIELD INVERTER BEAM WORKS
WELL, KRAKO!

YES! IT USES THE POWER OF A SHIP'S
OWN FORCE FIELD TO CRUSH ITSELF!

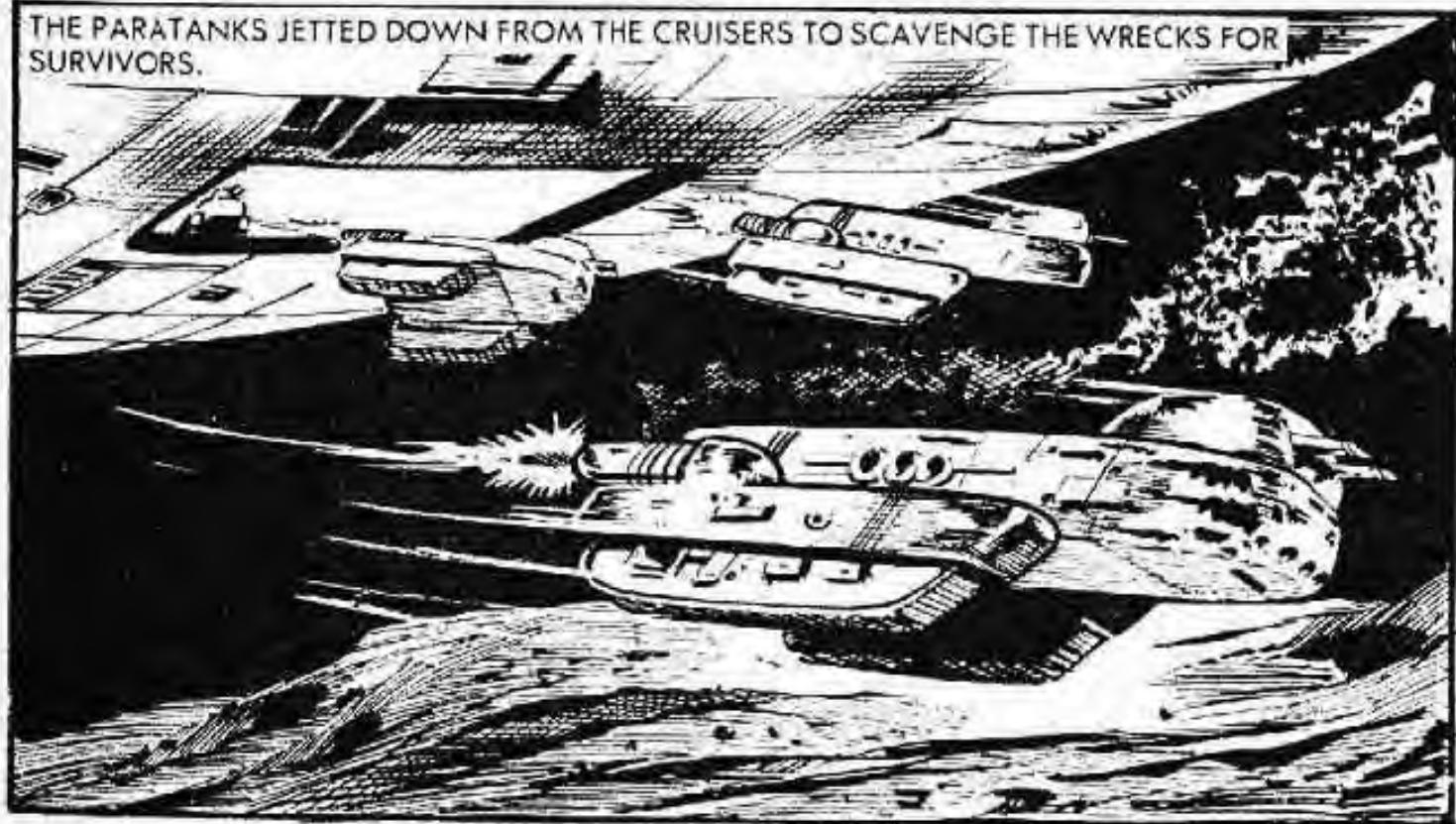




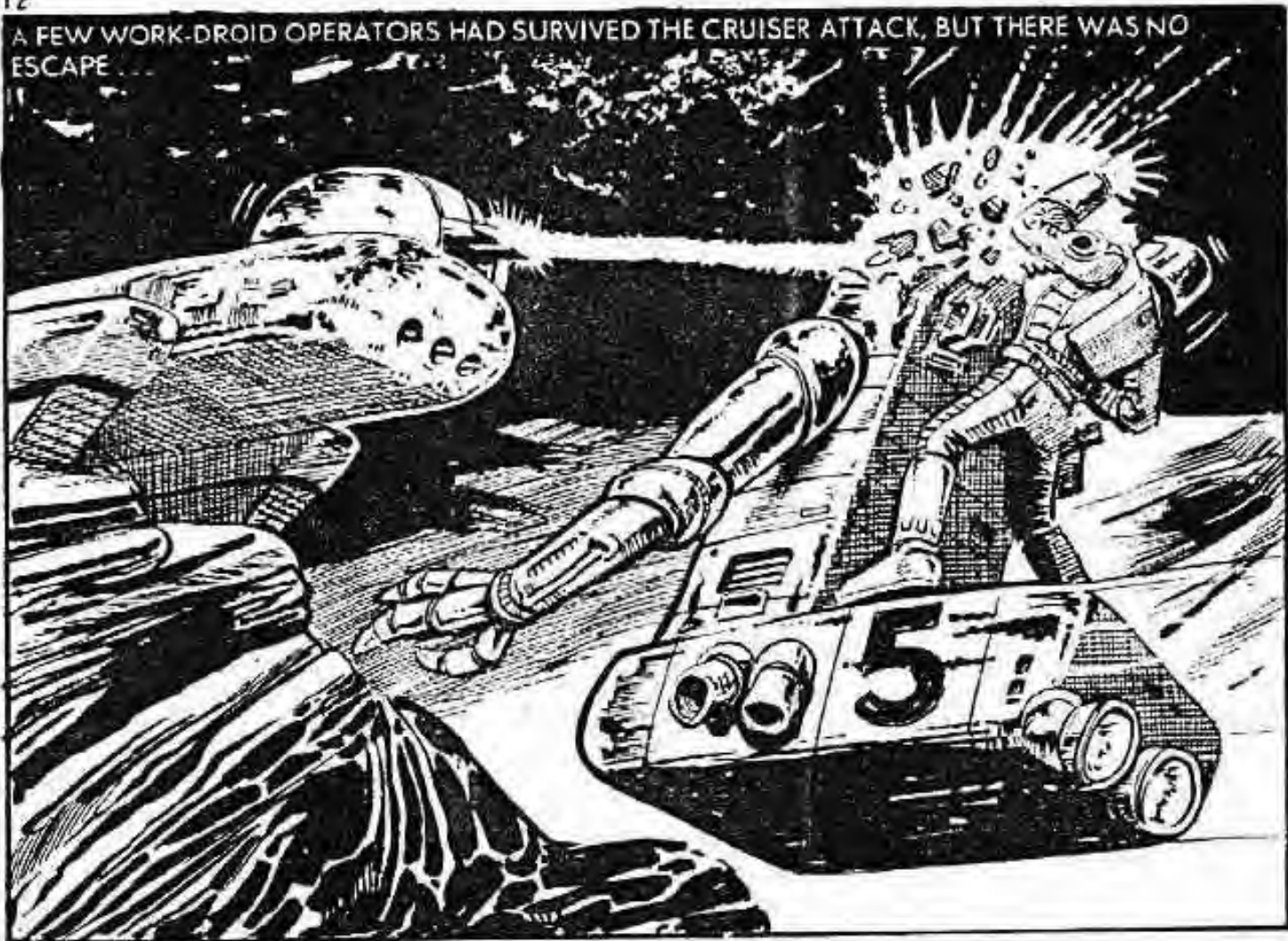
THE EARTH MINERS WERE STILL UNABLE TO MAKE SPACE FLIGHT WHEN THE VORGANS BEGAN BLASTING THE UNARMED AND DEFENCELESS SHIPS.



THE PARATANKS JETTED DOWN FROM THE CRUISERS TO SCAVENGE THE WRECKS FOR SURVIVORS.



A FEW WORK-DROID OPERATORS HAD SURVIVED THE CRUISER ATTACK, BUT THERE WAS NO ESCAPE.



ON ONE OF THE REMAINING MINING CRAFT, CAPTAIN STORM WATCHED THE MURDERING SKUNKS! THEY'RE KILLING JUST FOR PLEASURE!

CAN'T WE DO ANYTHING, SIR?



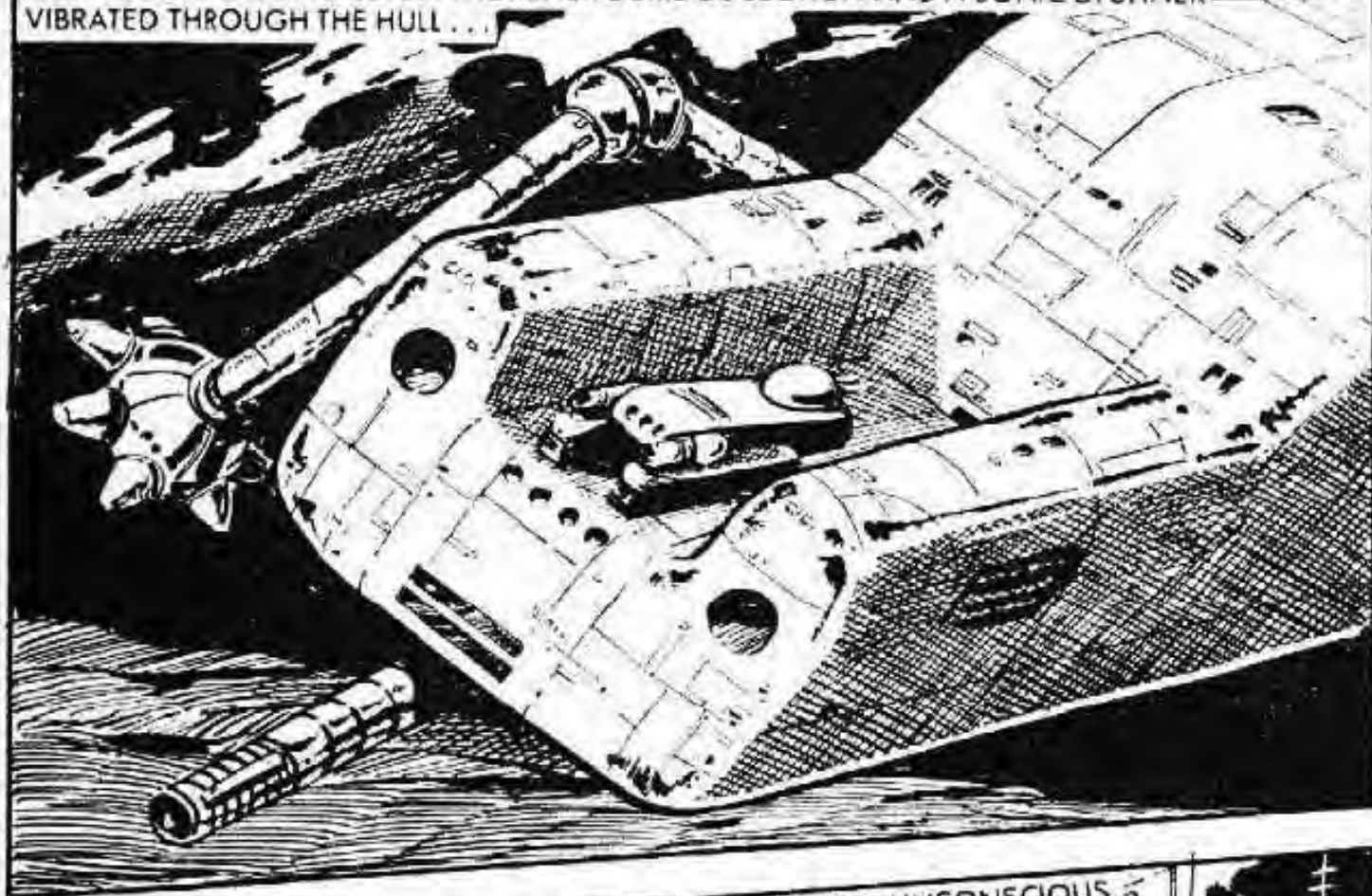


THE MINER STEPPED OVER THE LEADING PARATANKS AND FROM THE STORAGE BAYS SHOT WHITE-HOT LIQUID METAL IT HAD JUST MINED —

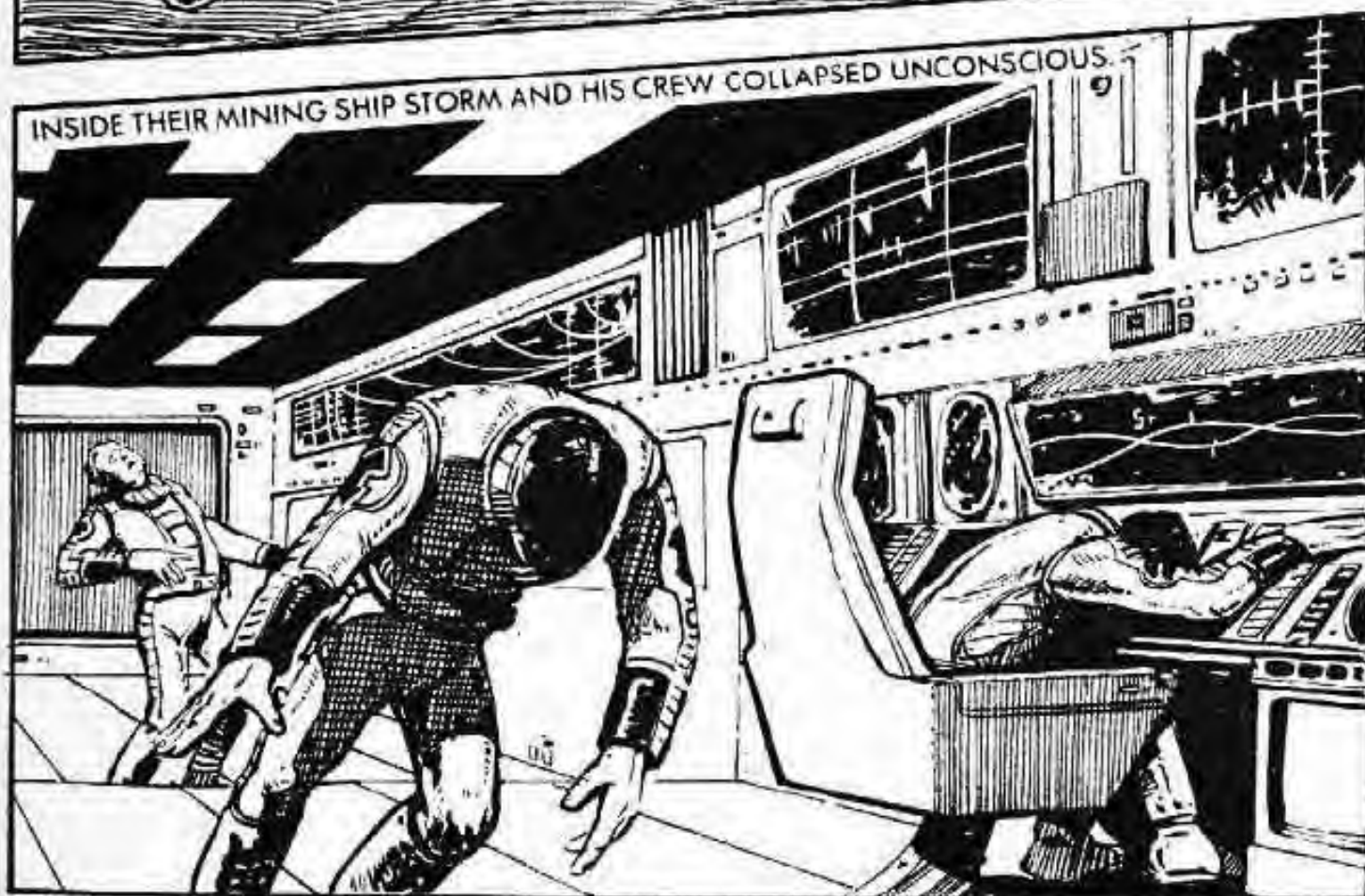
WE GOT THREE!



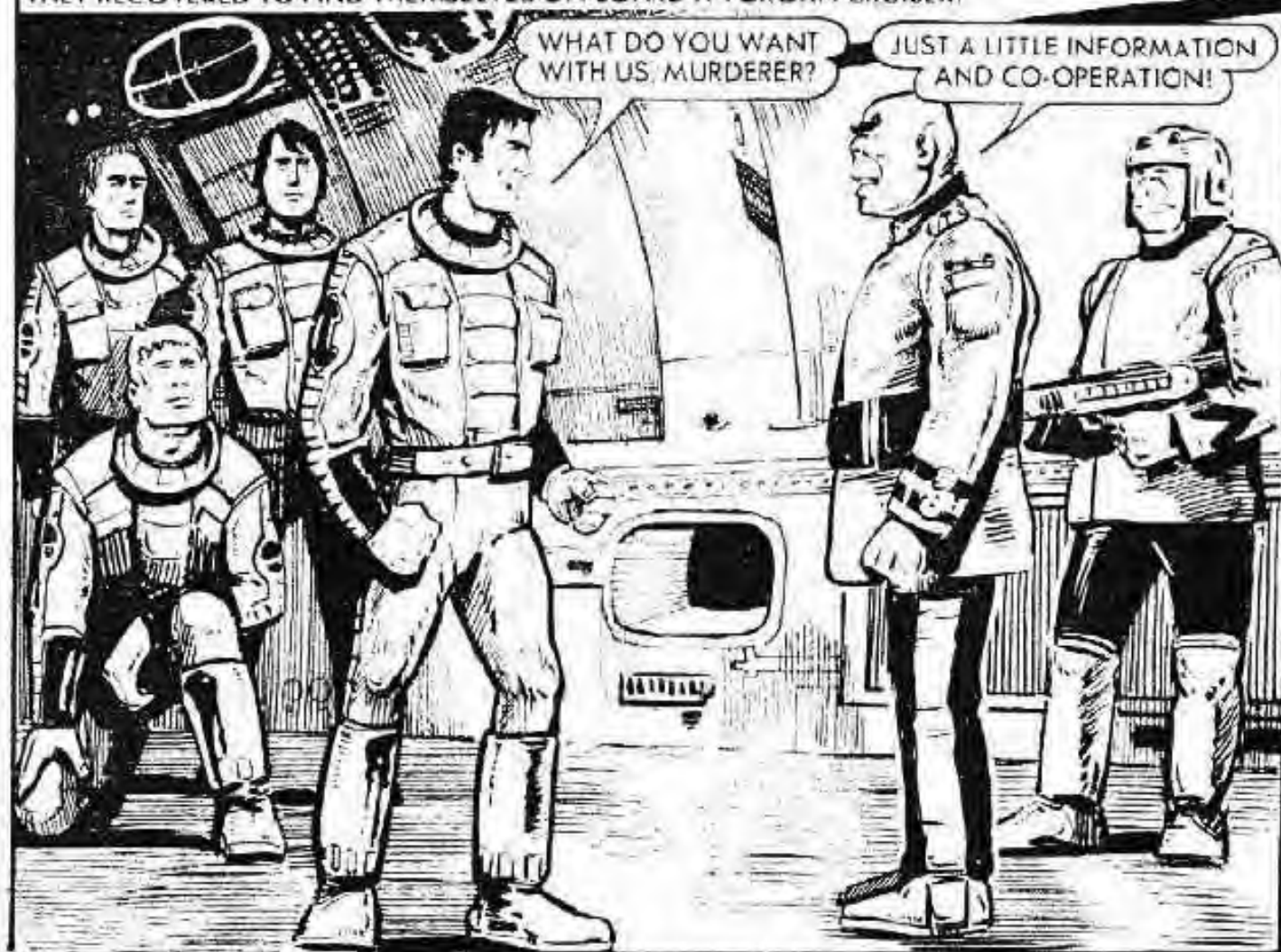
BUT A PARATANK LANDED ON THE MINER'S BRIDGE SECTION AND A SONIC STUNNER VIBRATED THROUGH THE HULL . . .



INSIDE THEIR MINING SHIP STORM AND HIS CREW COLLAPSED UNCONSCIOUS.



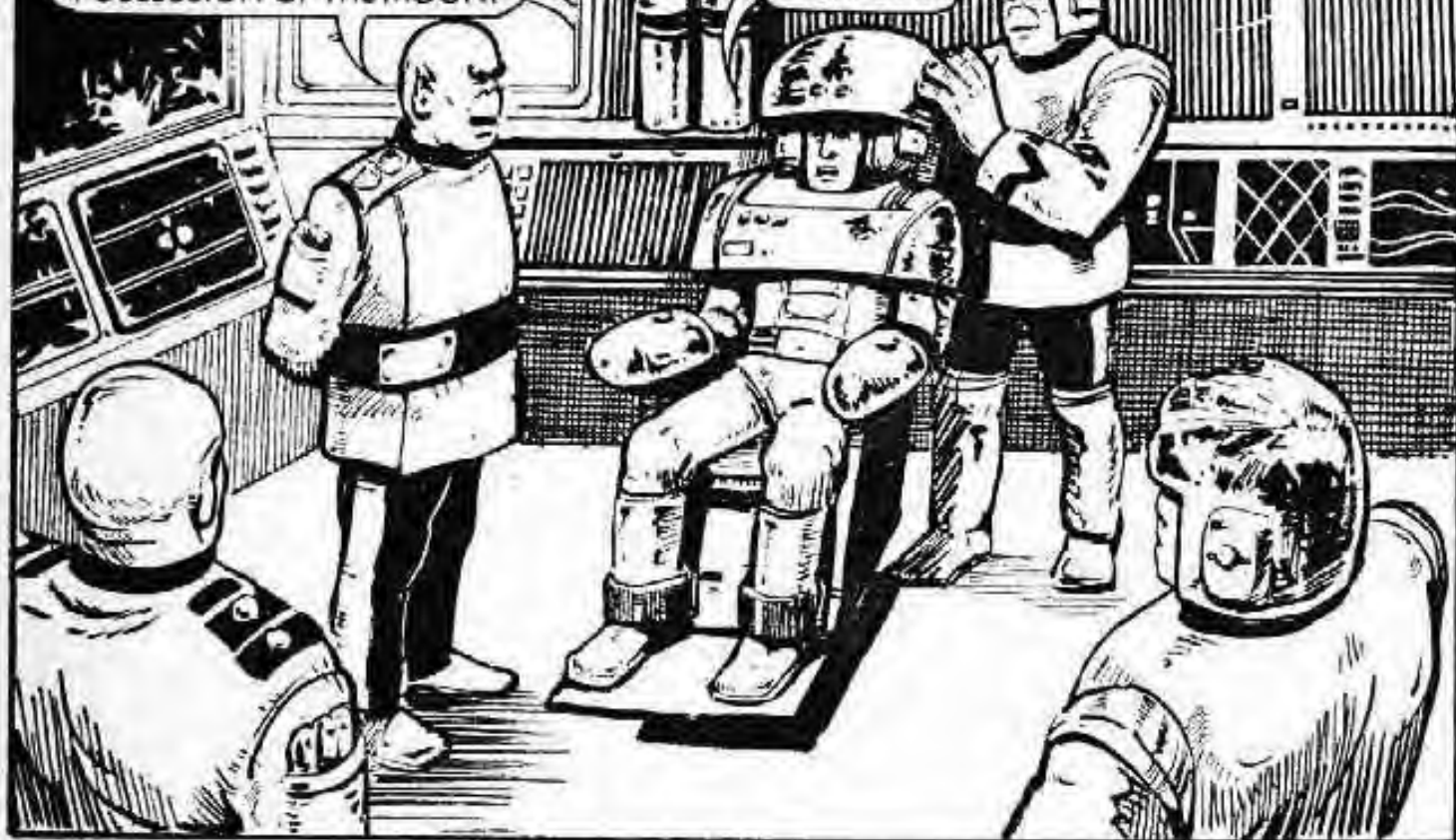
THEY RECOVERED TO FIND THEMSELVES ON BOARD A VORGAN CRUISER.



STORM WAS CLAMPED INTO A CONTOURED SEAT —

WE INTEND CAPTURING ARCOS,
BUT WE FIRST HAVE TO GET
POSSESSION OF THE MOON!

YOU'LL NEVER GET PAST THE
MISSILES — EVEN WITH YOUR NEW
WEAPON!

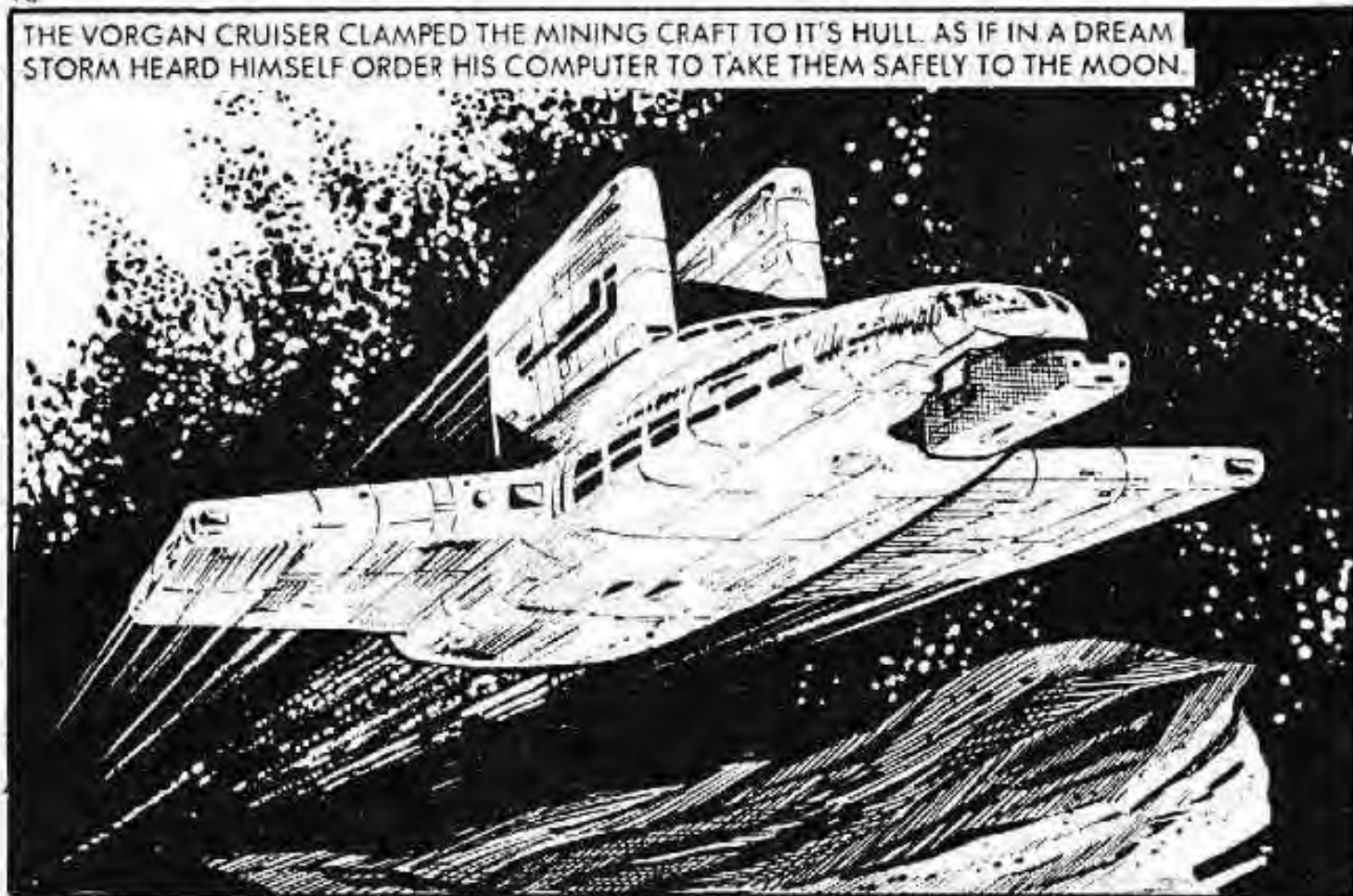


THIS DEVICE WILL MAKE YOU OBEY MY
EVERY ORDER! YOU ARE GOING TO
TAKE US SAFELY TO THE MOON!
RESISTANCE IS USELESS!

WE KNOW THAT EARTH SHIPS
GET PAST THE MISSILES BY
SENDING OUT A SPECIAL CODE.
THAT CODE'S IN YOUR SHIP'S
COMPUTER AND FOR SECURITY
REASONS IT CAN ONLY BE
ACTIVATED BY YOUR
VOICEPRINT!



THE VORGAN CRUISER CLAMPED THE MINING CRAFT TO IT'S HULL. AS IF IN A DREAM STORM HEARD HIMSELF ORDER HIS COMPUTER TO TAKE THEM SAFELY TO THE MOON.

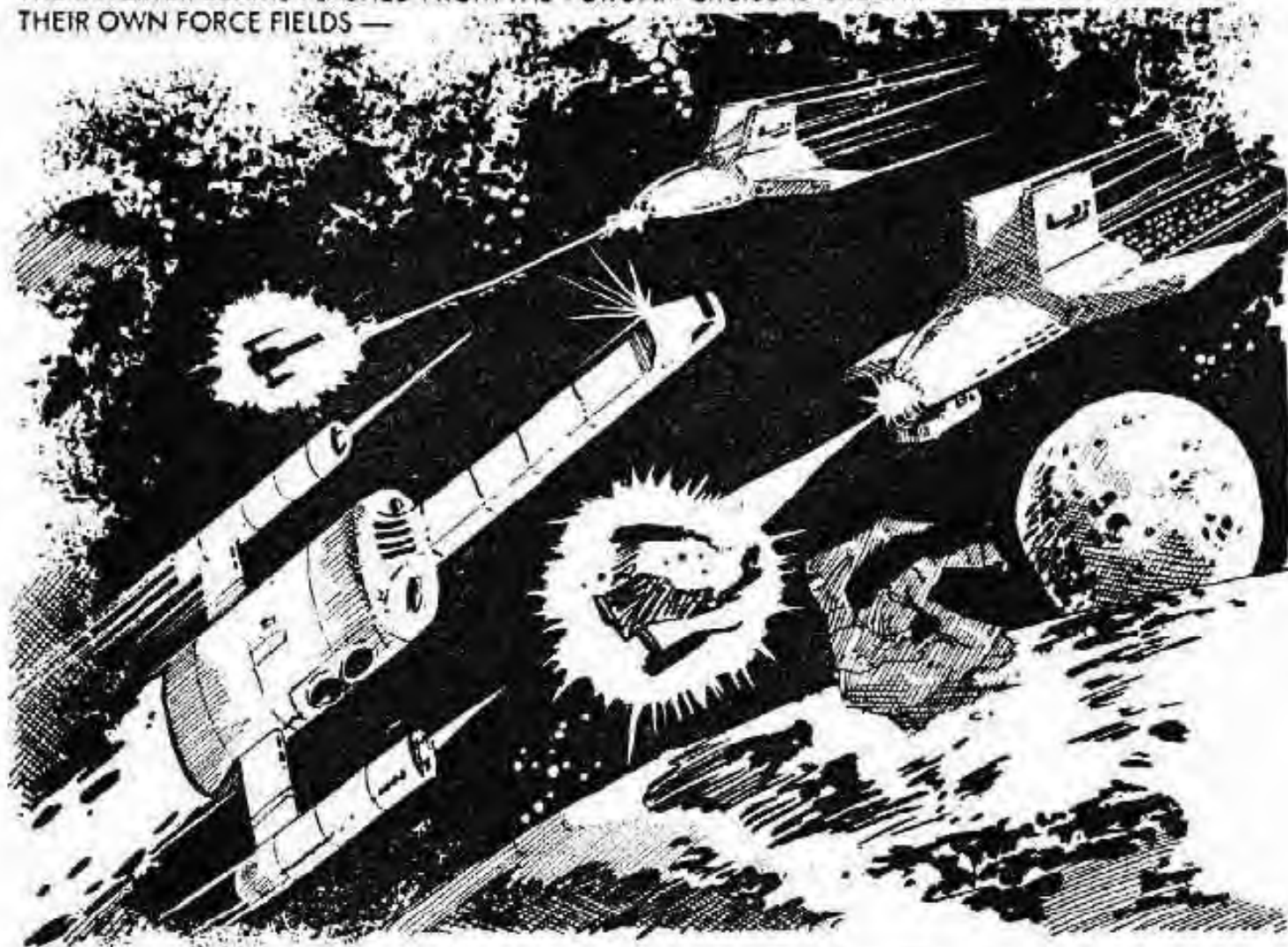


IN CLOSE FORMATION THE VORGANS NEARED THEIR TARGET ...





THE INVERTER BEAMS FLASHED FROM THE VORGAN CRUISERS CRUSHING THE FIGHTERS WITH THEIR OWN FORCE FIELDS —



THE COMPUTER OPERATOR EXPLAINED —

THE COMPUTERS RECKON THAT THE
INVERTER CAN ONLY FUNCTION IN
HARD VACUUM!

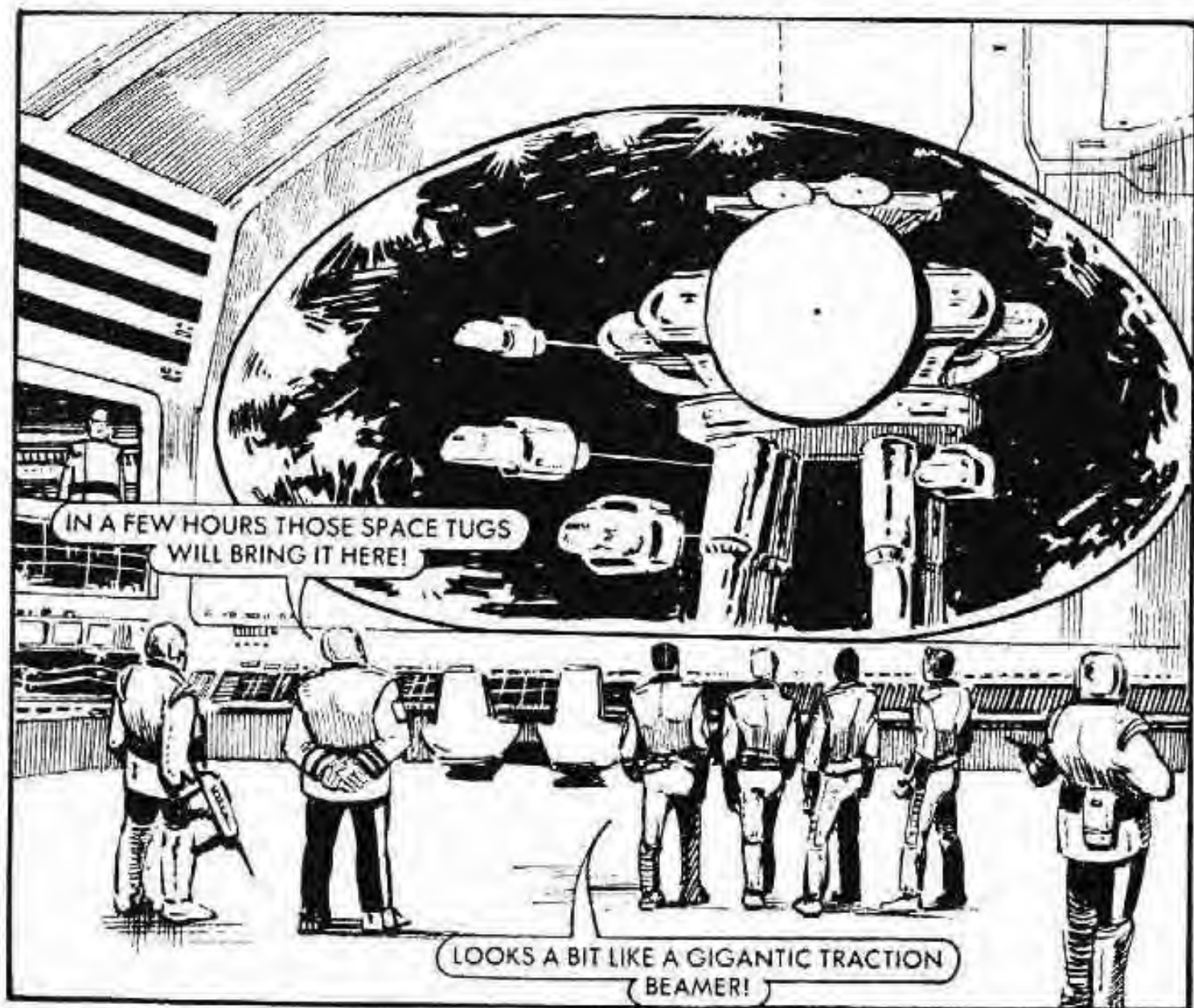
SO THEY CAN'T COME DOWN HERE AND
WORK... LOOKS LIKE A STALEMATE,
COMMANDER!

ACTIVATE OUR FORCE FIELD DOME! WE'LL
ATTACK WHEN WE'VE WORKED OUT THE
ANSWER TO THE INVERTER!



SATISFIED WITH THEIR WORK THE TWO VORGAN CRUISERS LANDED ON THE MOON BY THE WRECKED MISSILE BASE.







TO STORM'S SURPRISE THEY WERE ORDERED INTO VAC-SUITS AND TAKEN ACROSS TO ONE OF THE UNDERGROUND BUNKERS.

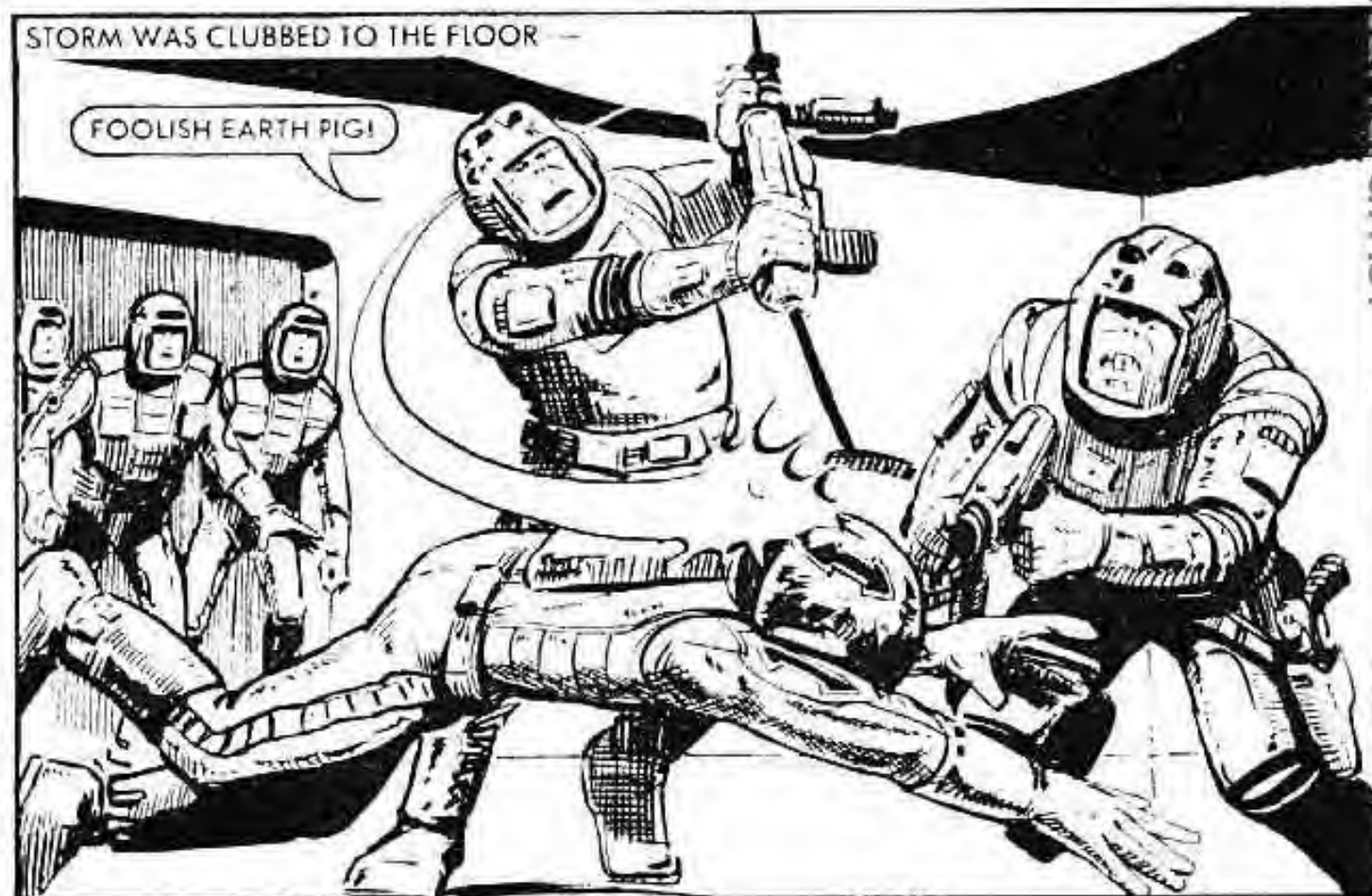
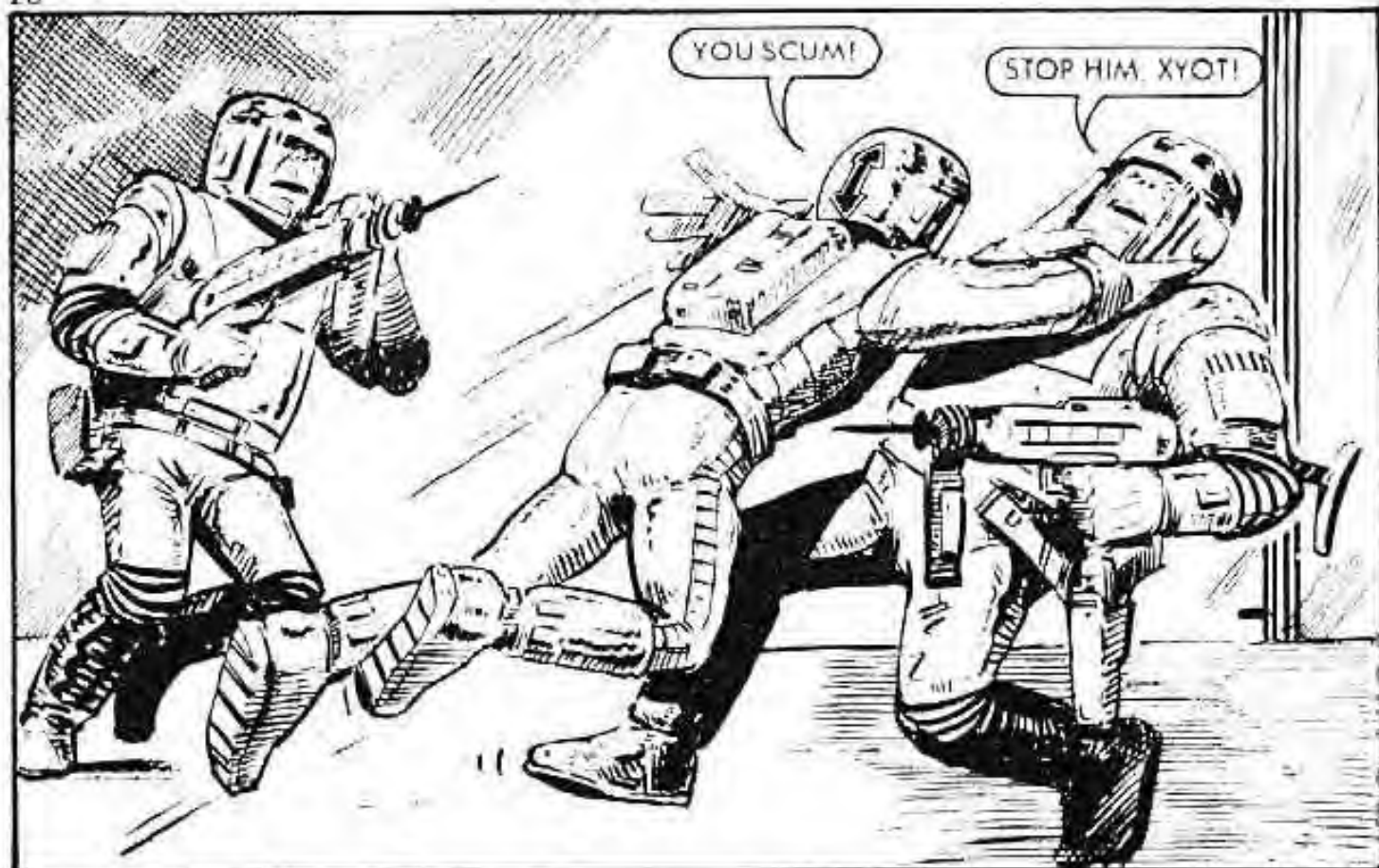


INSIDE WERE THE BODIES OF THE TECHNICIANS —

I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY
BEEN HERE, VORGANS!

THEY WERE OF
NO USE TO US!



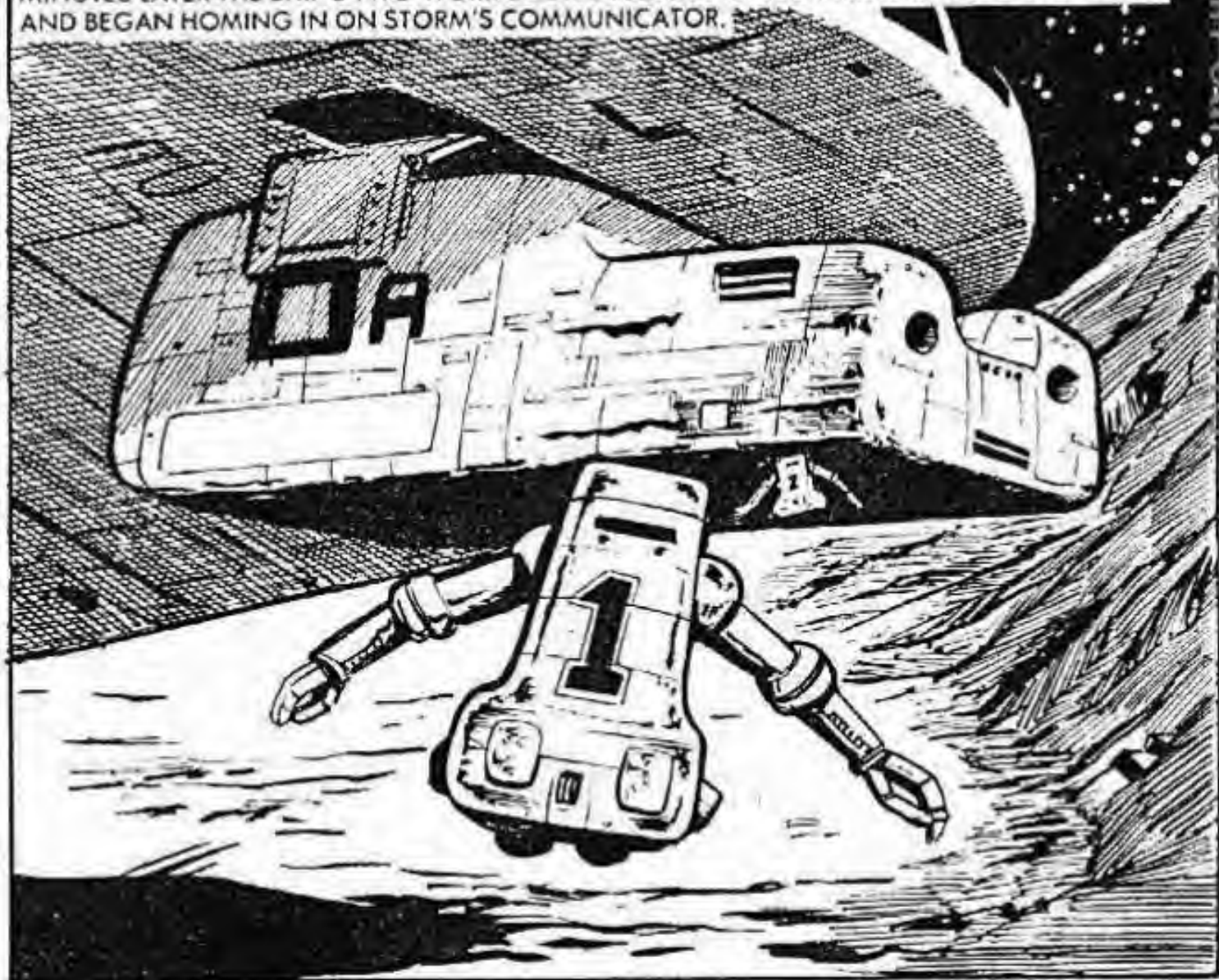




IT'S THE COMMUNICATOR FROM ONE
OF THE TECHNICIANS — OUR TICKET
OUT OF HERE!

NOW I CAN TALK WITH OUR SHIP'S COMPUTER!
IT WILL DO EXACTLY WHAT I TELL IT — AND THE
VORGANS WON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT!

MINUTES LATER THE SHIP'S TWO WORK-DROIDS FLOATED UNNOTICED DOWN TO THE MOON
AND BEGAN HOMING IN ON STORM'S COMMUNICATOR.



STORM RELAYED INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH HIS COMPUTER AND THE DROIDS BEGAN SMASHING THROUGH TO THE UNDERGROUND BUNKER.



AN HOUR LATER THE SPACERS WERE FREE.

GET ON THE DROIDS BEFORE THE VORGANS
REALISE WE'VE GONE!





THE MOON'S GRAVITY SLOWED THEIR FALL AS STORM ORDERED THE DROIDS TO CRASH THE FLOATER —



ONE DROID MADE IT THROUGH THE FLOATER'S GUNS AND RIPPED THE CONTROL SECTION APART —




AS THE FLOATER AND DROID CRASHED IN A TANGLE OF WRECKAGE STORM'S MEN RUSHED FORWARD.






STORM CHARGED AT THE VORGANS USING THE ROCK AS A SHIELD —

MY SPEED MAKES THIS
ROCK WEIGH A TON!



WITH THE VORGANS TAKEN CARE OF, THEY APPROACHED THE SHIP.

HAS ANYONE
NOTICED US?



NO, THEY'RE TOO
BUSY PREPARING THINGS.

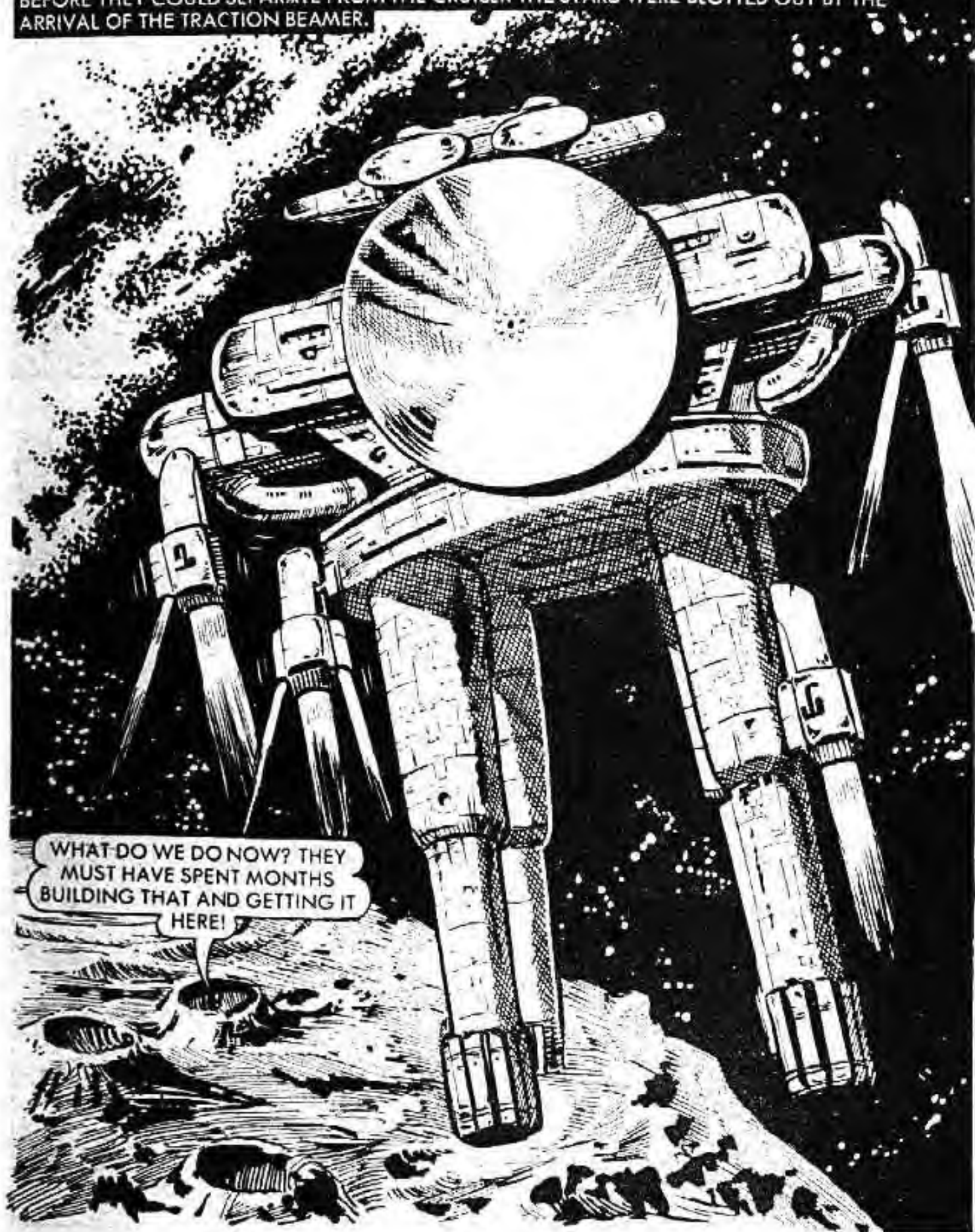
MINUTES LATER THE SHIP'S OWN
TRACTION BEAM LIFTED THEM
SILENTLY ABOARD.



THE UNSUSPECTING VORGAN GUARDS WERE
QUICKLY DEALT WITH.

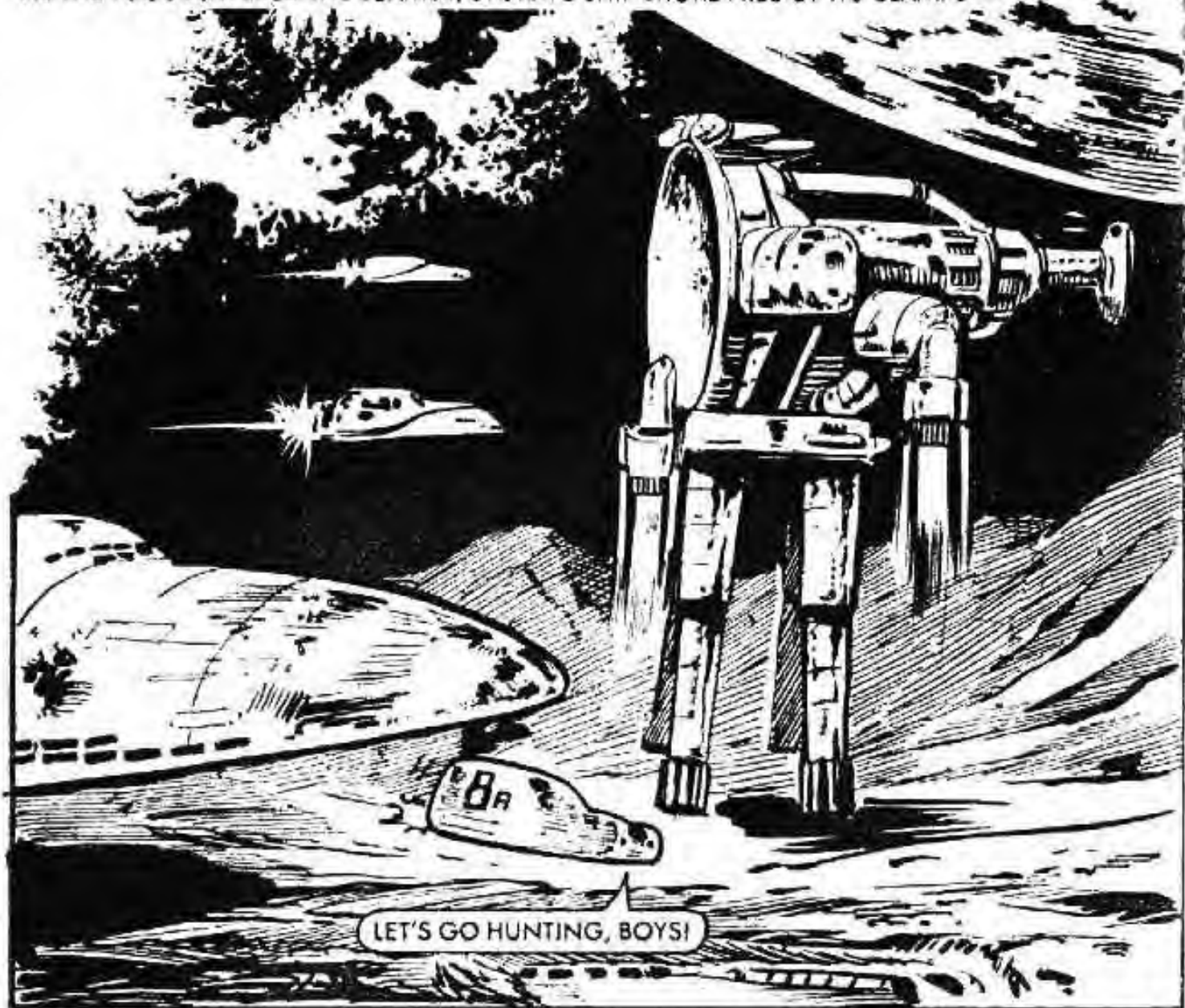


BEFORE THEY COULD SEPARATE FROM THE CRUISER THE STARS WERE BLOTTED OUT BY THE ARRIVAL OF THE TRACTION BEAMER.





AS THE TUGS LOWERED THE BEAMER, STORM'S SHIP BROKE FREE OF ITS CLAMPS —

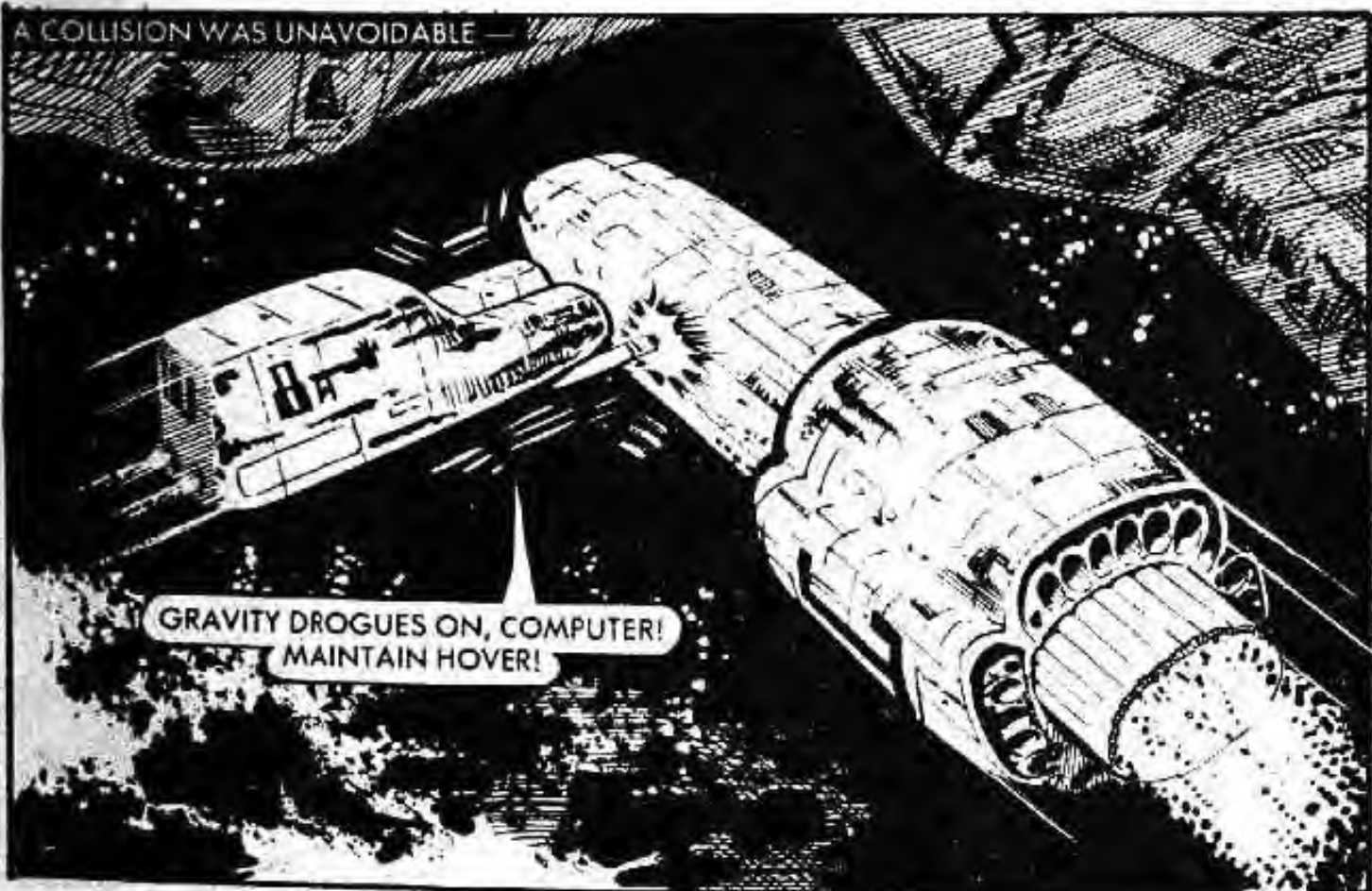




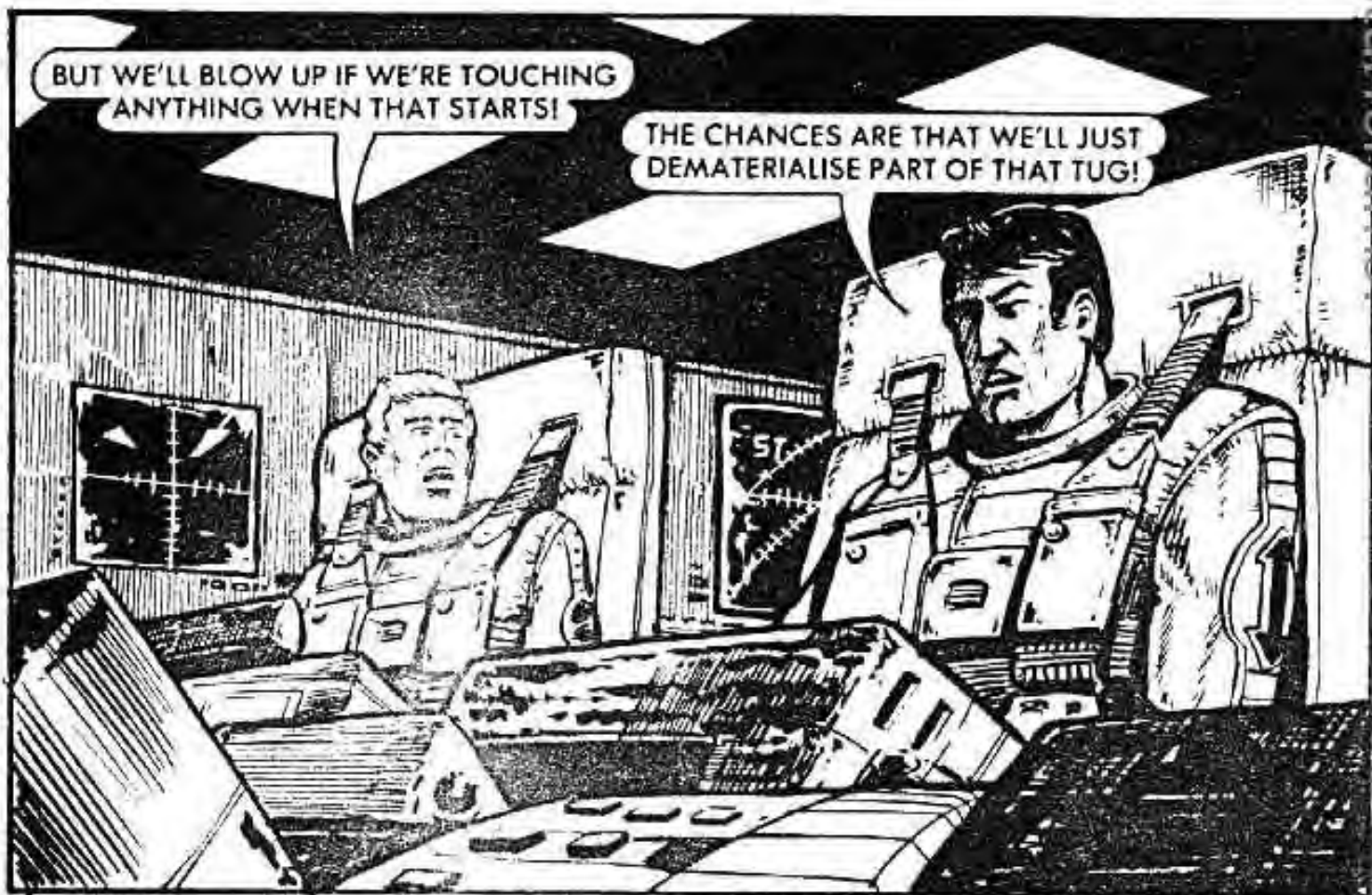
I'M GOING FOR THE POWER UNITS —
GET THE VAPORISER READY!

SIR! LOOK OUT! THAT
TUG'S MOVING OUT...

A COLLISION WAS UNAVOIDABLE —



GRAVITY DROGUES ON, COMPUTER!
MAINTAIN HOVER!





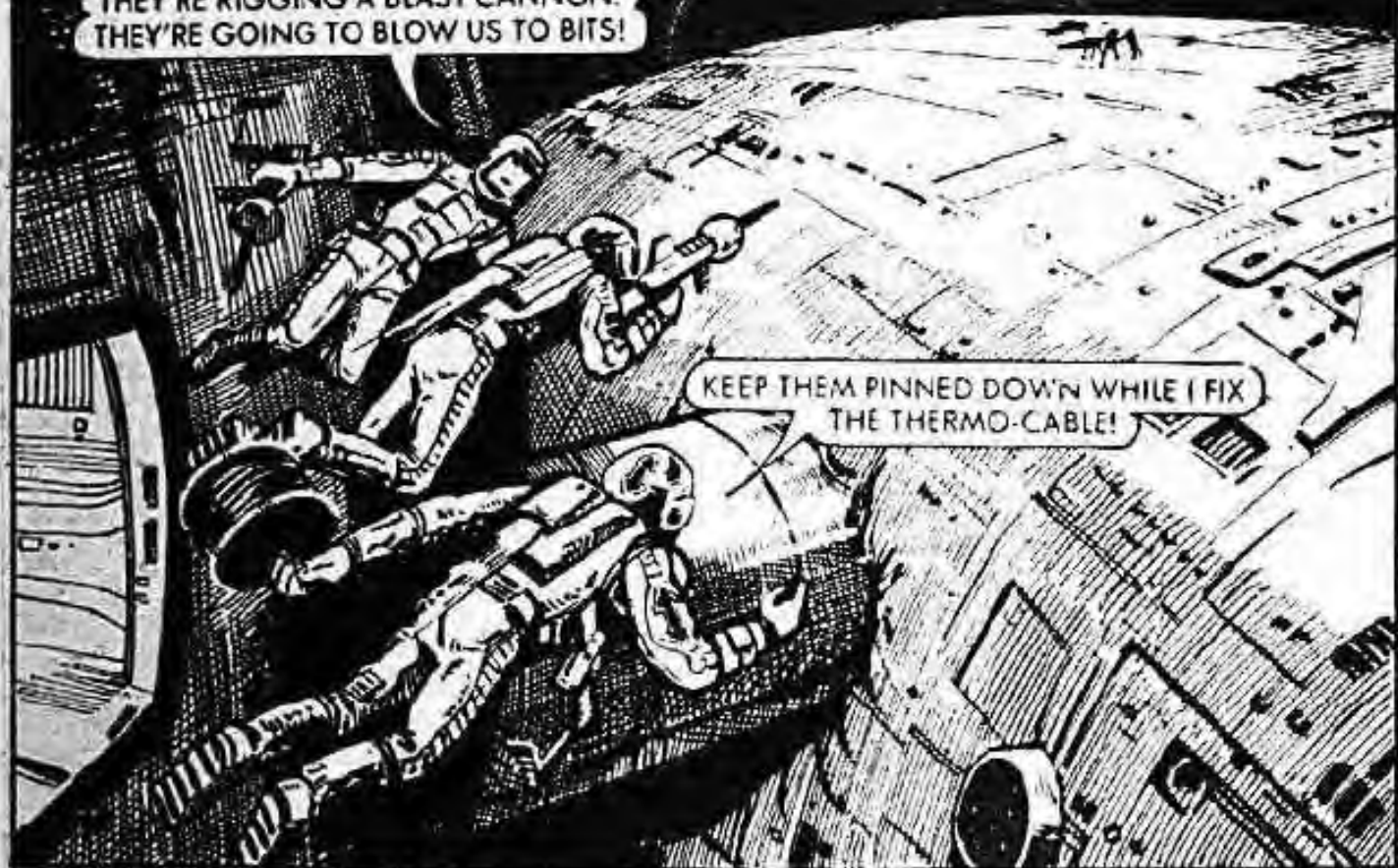
BOTH SHIPS WARPED AS ONE! THE RESULT WAS A DISTORTED WARP FIELD THAT HURLED THE CRAFT OUT INTO BLACK SPACE . . .





BUT THE VORGANS HAD THE SAME IDEA...

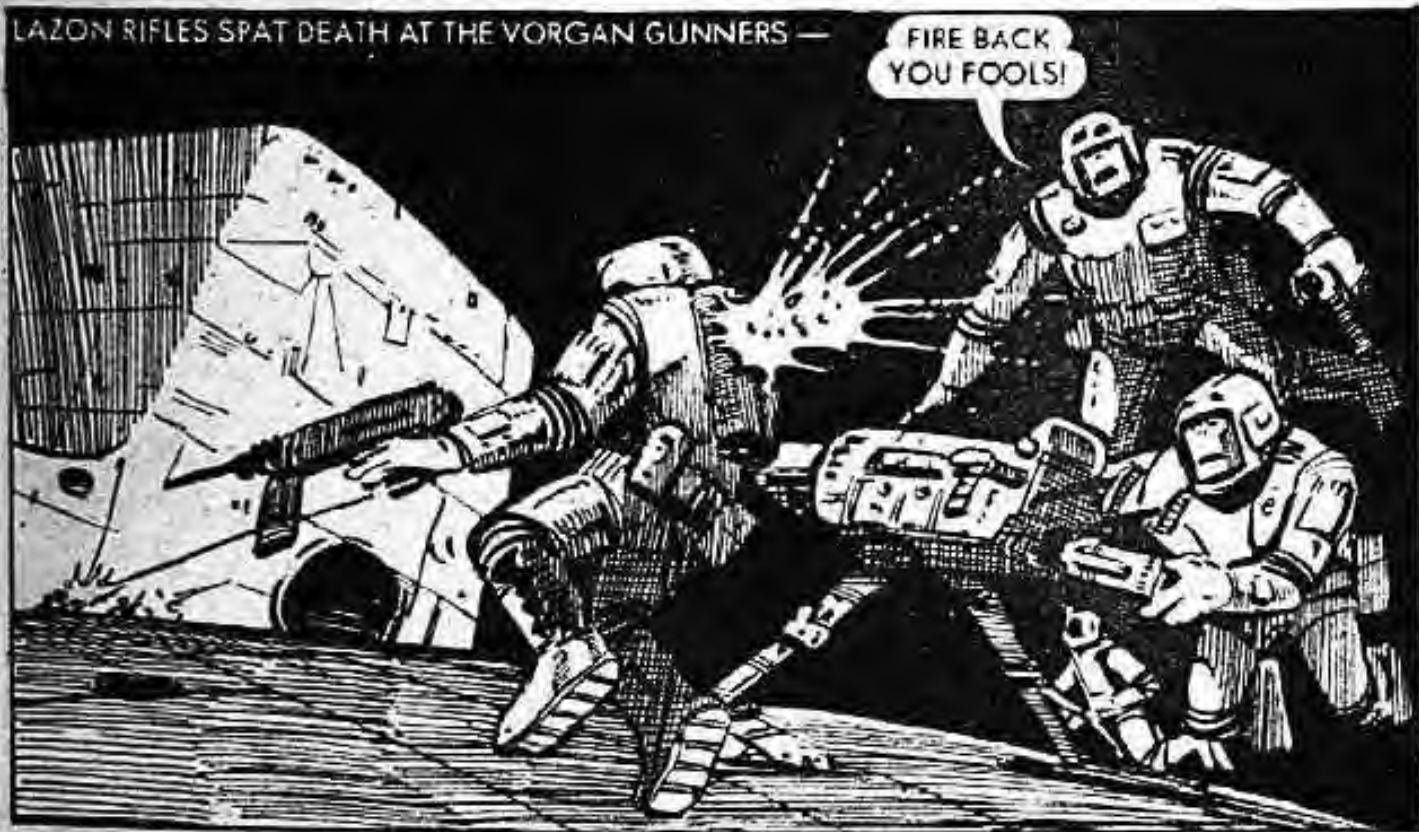
THEY'RE RIGGING A BLAST CANNON.
THEY'RE GOING TO BLOW US TO BITS!



KEEP THEM PINNED DOWN WHILE I FIX
THE THERMO-CABLE!

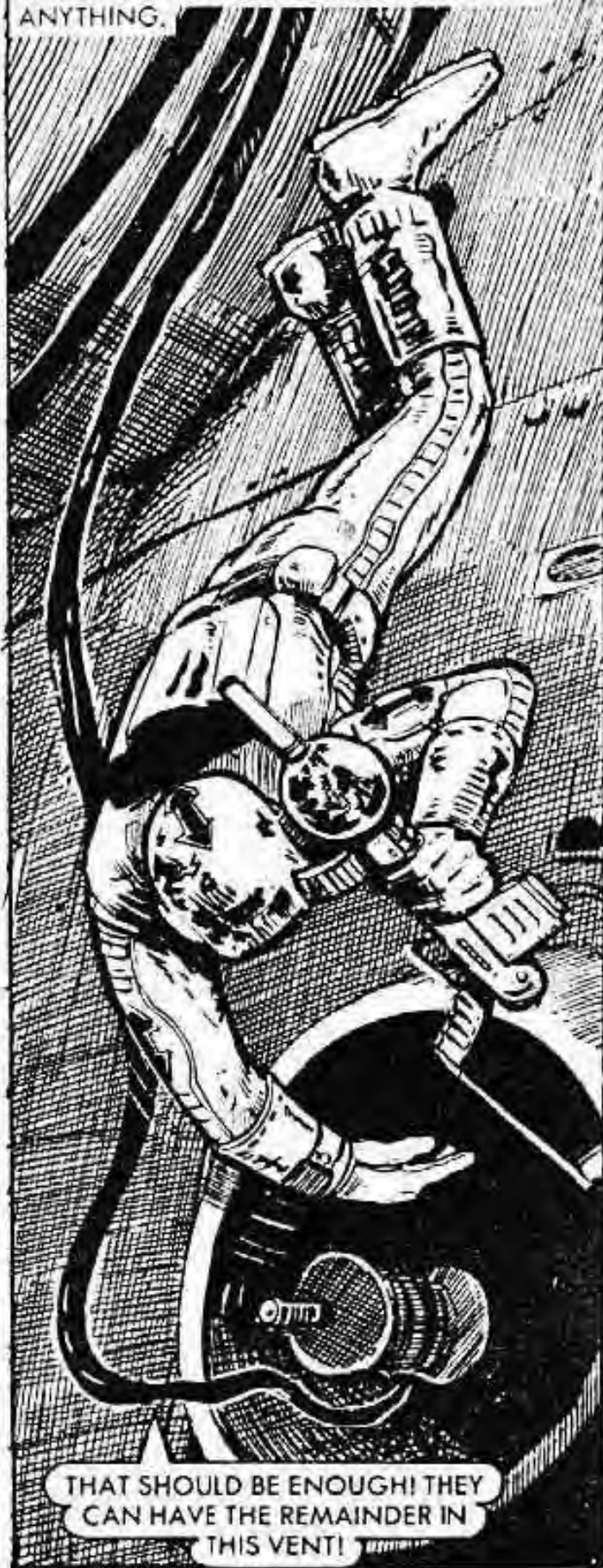
LAZON RIFLES SPAT DEATH AT THE VORGAN GUNNERS —

FIRE BACK
YOU FOOLS!



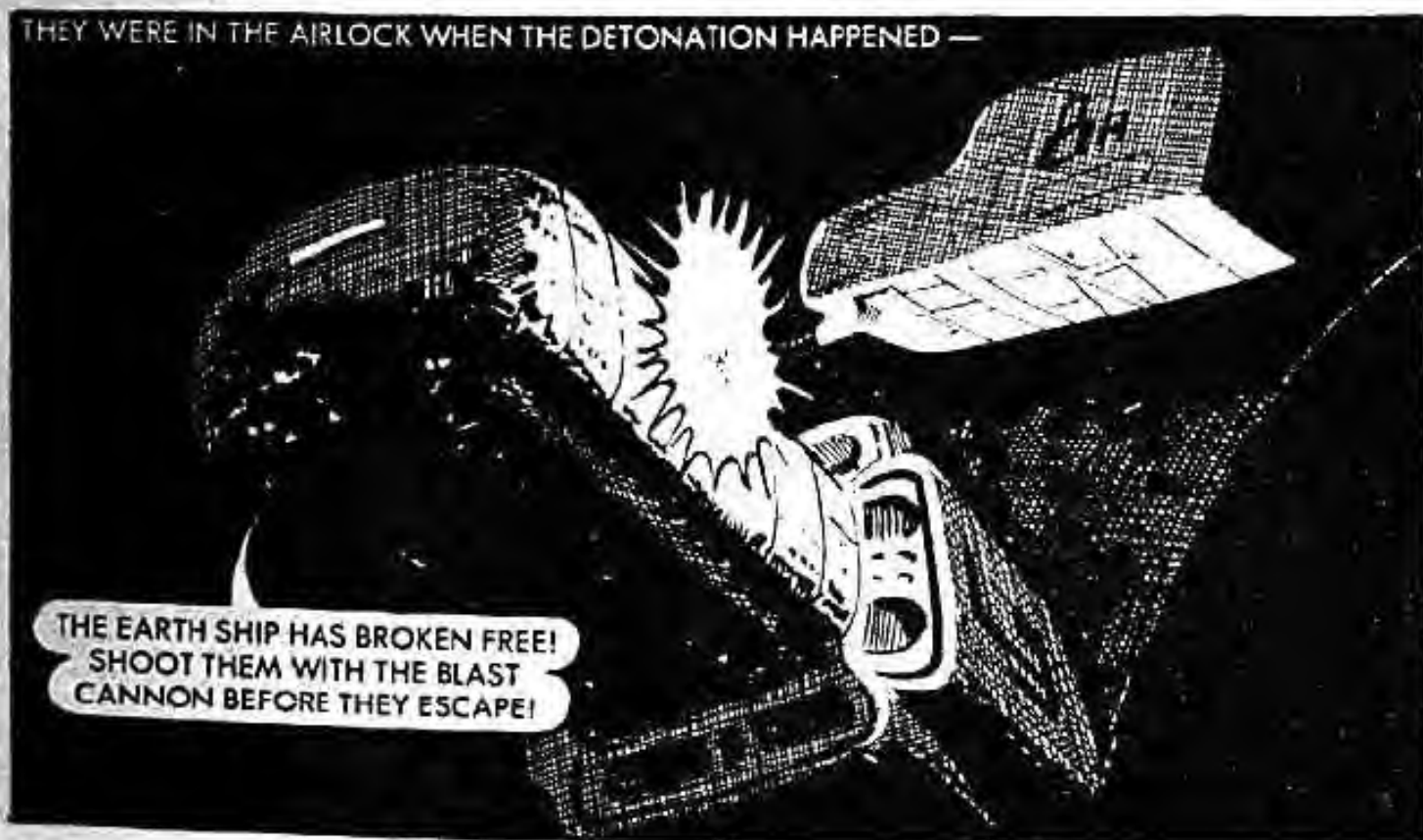


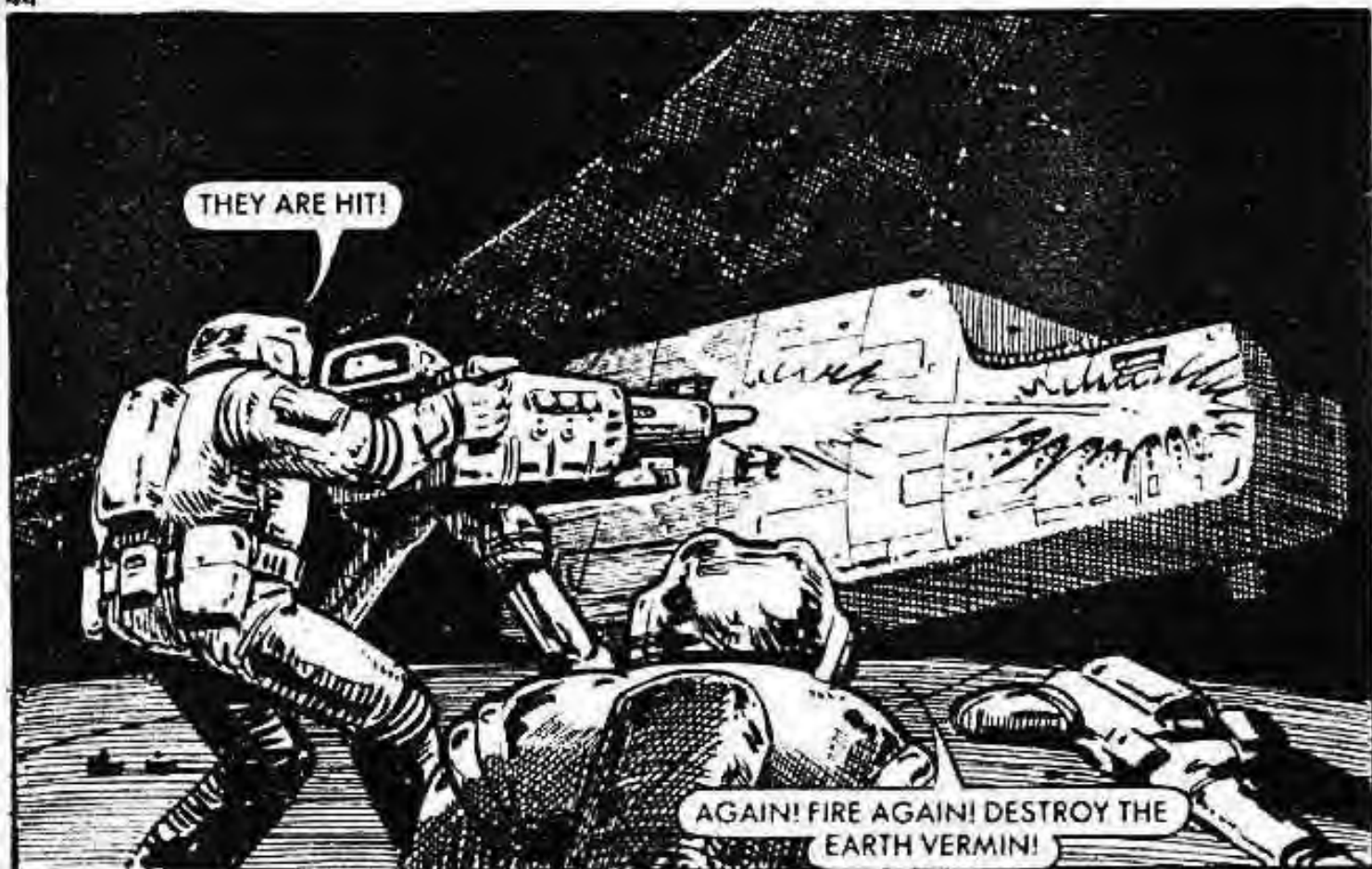
THERMO-CABLE WAS A HEAT-PRODUCING EXPLOSIVE THAT COULD BURN THROUGH ANYTHING.





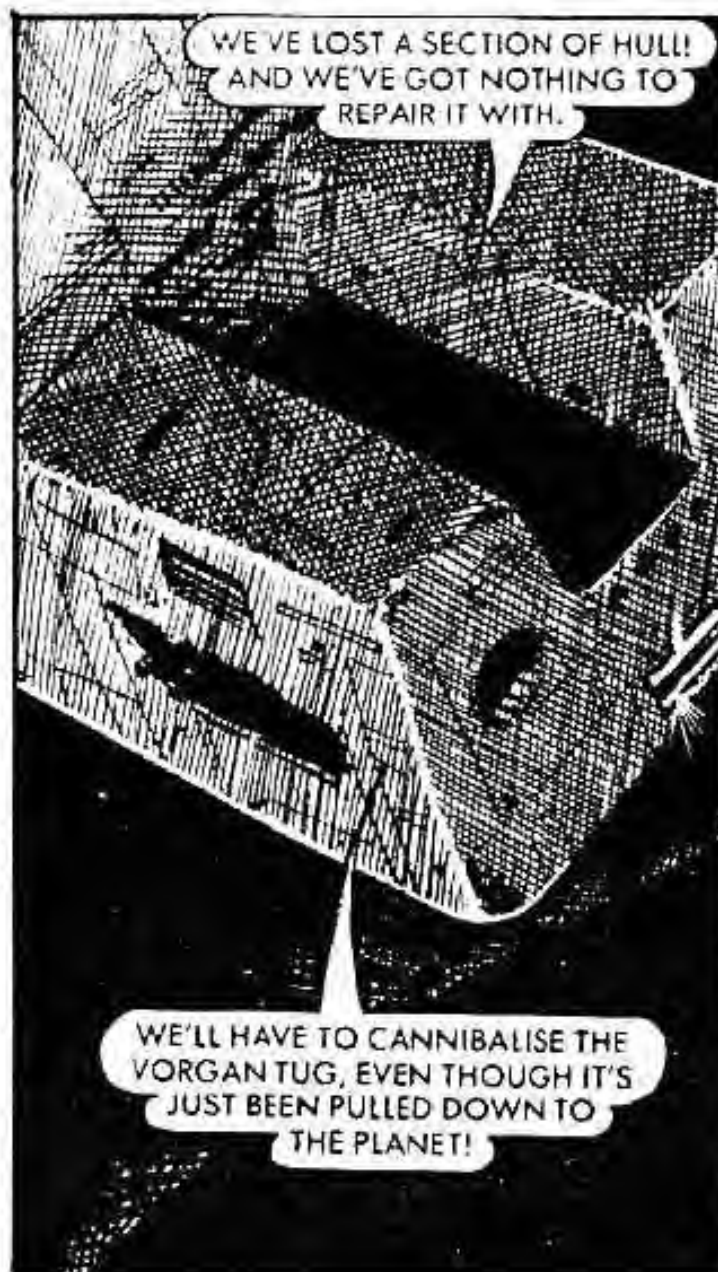
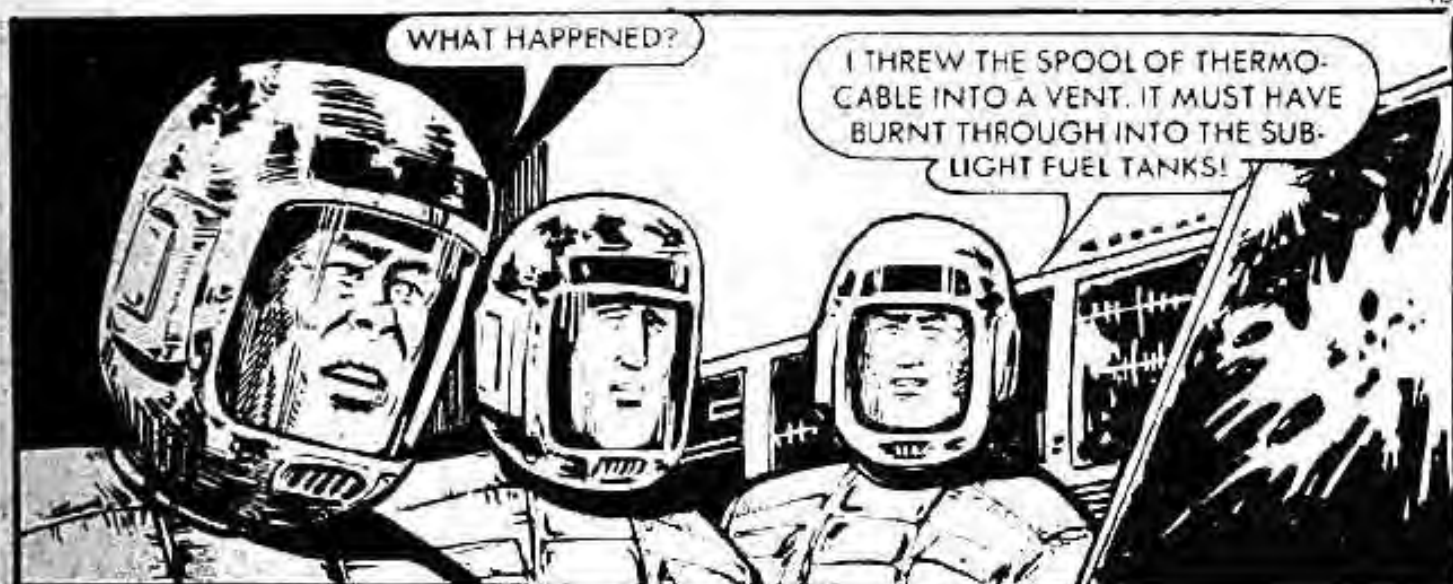
THEY WERE IN THE AIRLOCK WHEN THE DETONATION HAPPENED —





BUT THE VORGAN TUG SUDDENLY BLEW APART AS A COLOSSAL EXPLOSION RIPPED THROUGH ITS INNARDS.

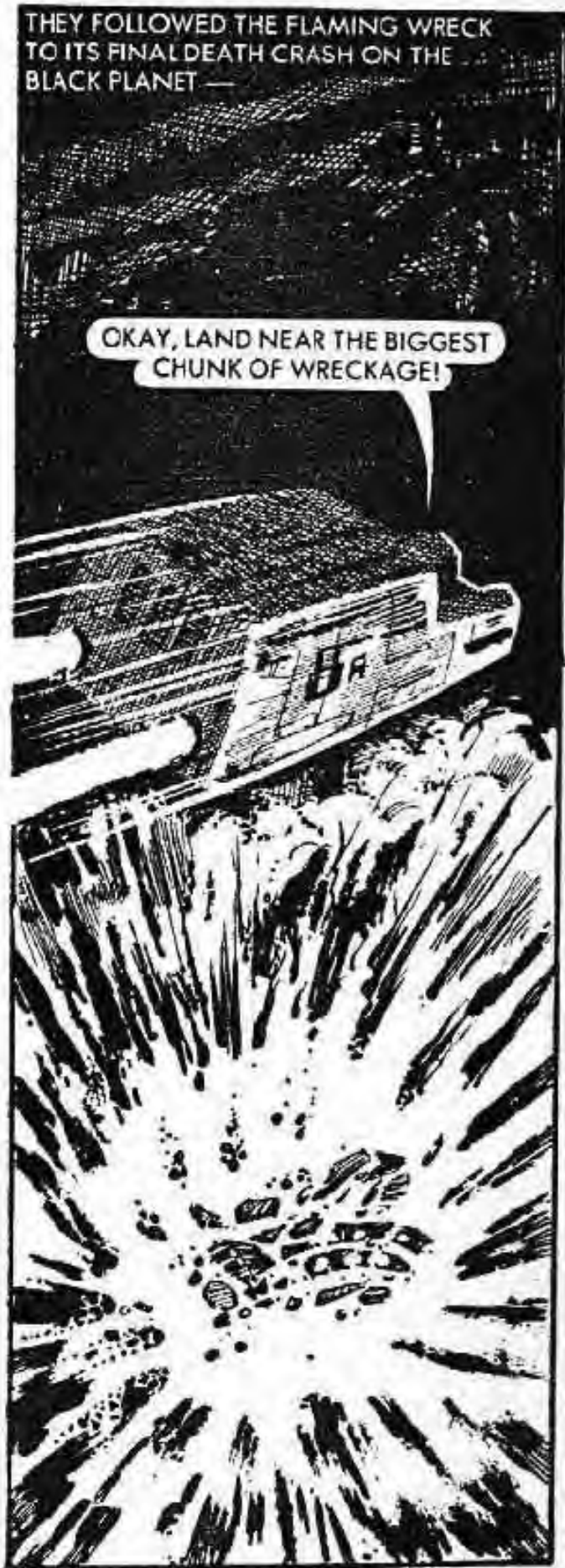






THEN WE'LL HAVE TO FOLLOW IT
DOWN AND HOPE THAT ENOUGH
OF IT SURVIVES BURN UP! IF
WE DON'T MAKE REPAIRS WE DON'T
GET HOME!

THEY FOLLOWED THE FLAMING WRECK
TO ITS FINAL DEATH CRASH ON THE
BLACK PLANET —

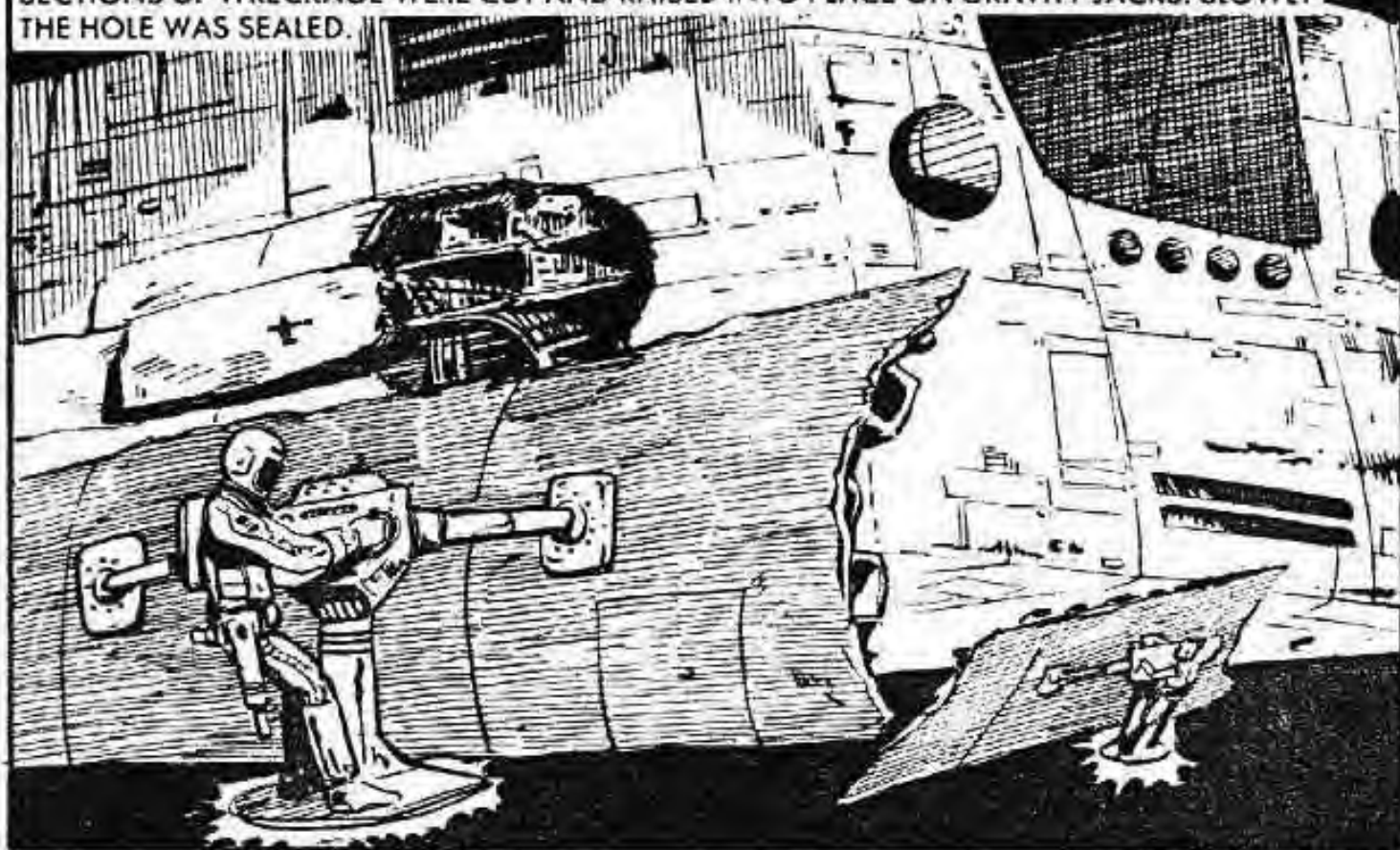


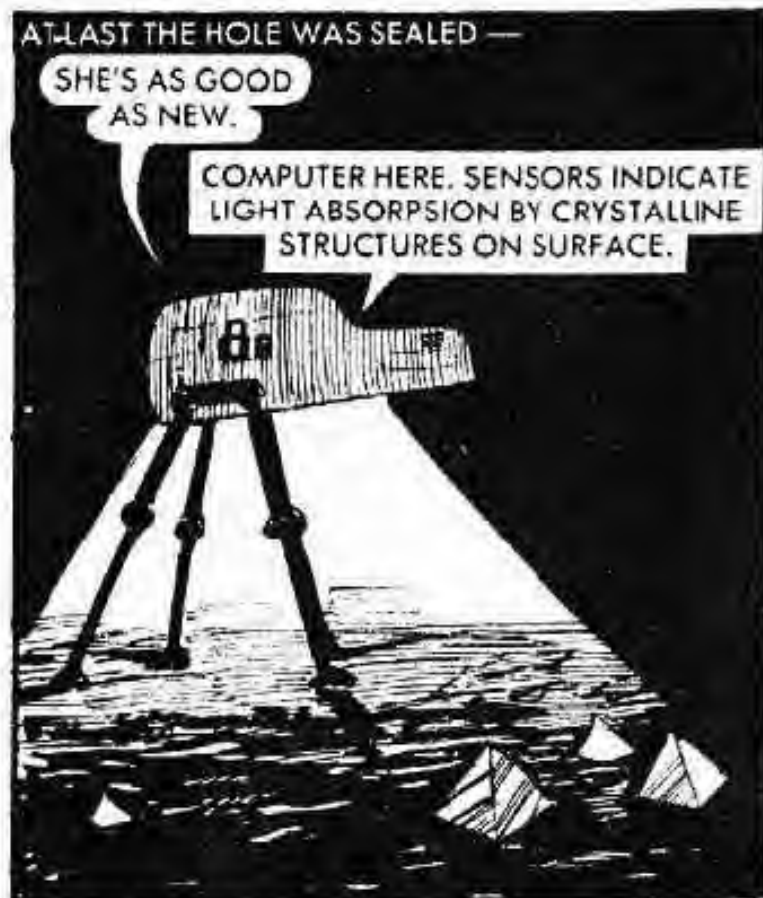
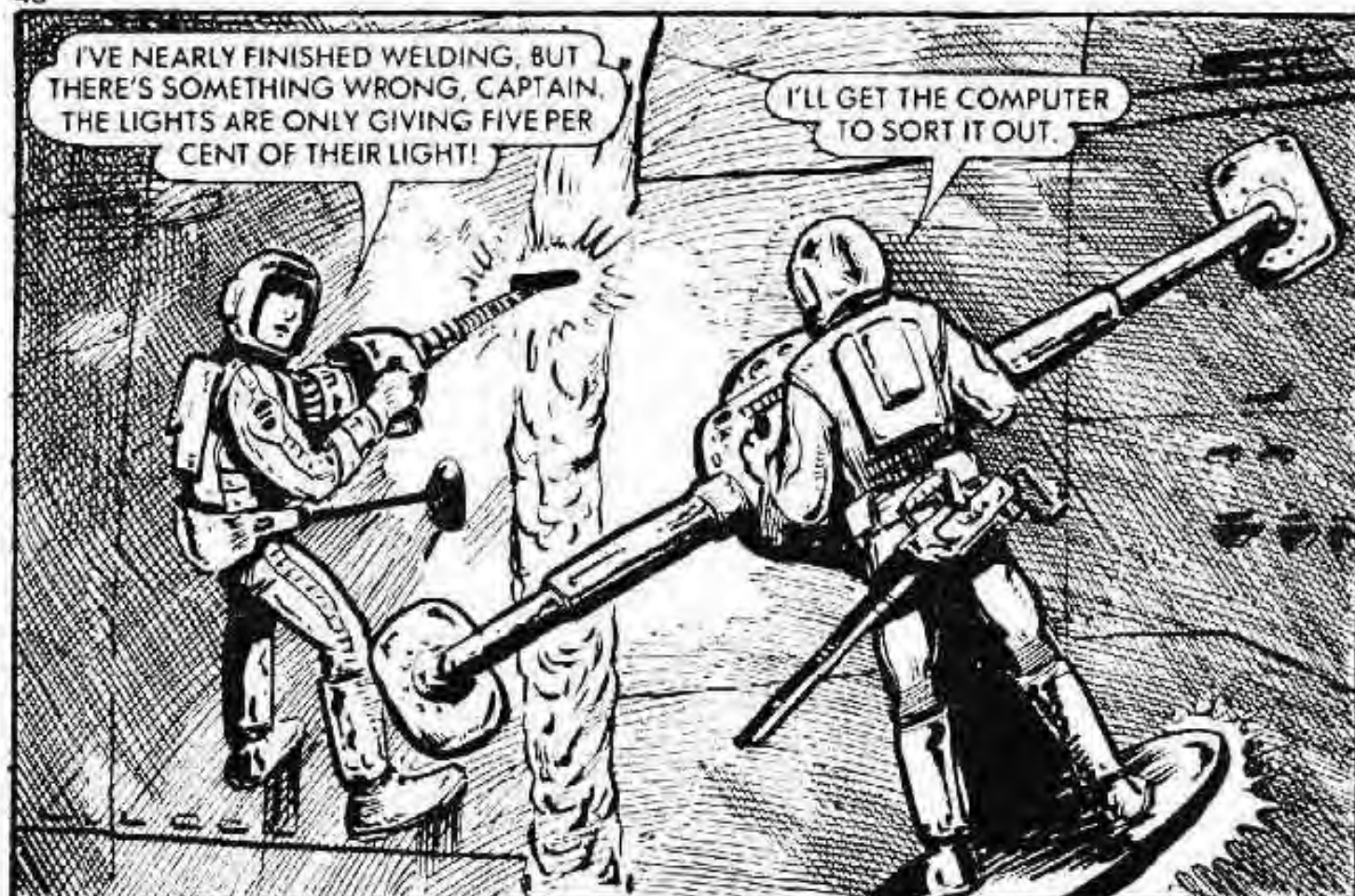
OKAY, LAND NEAR THE BIGGEST
CHUNK OF WRECKAGE!

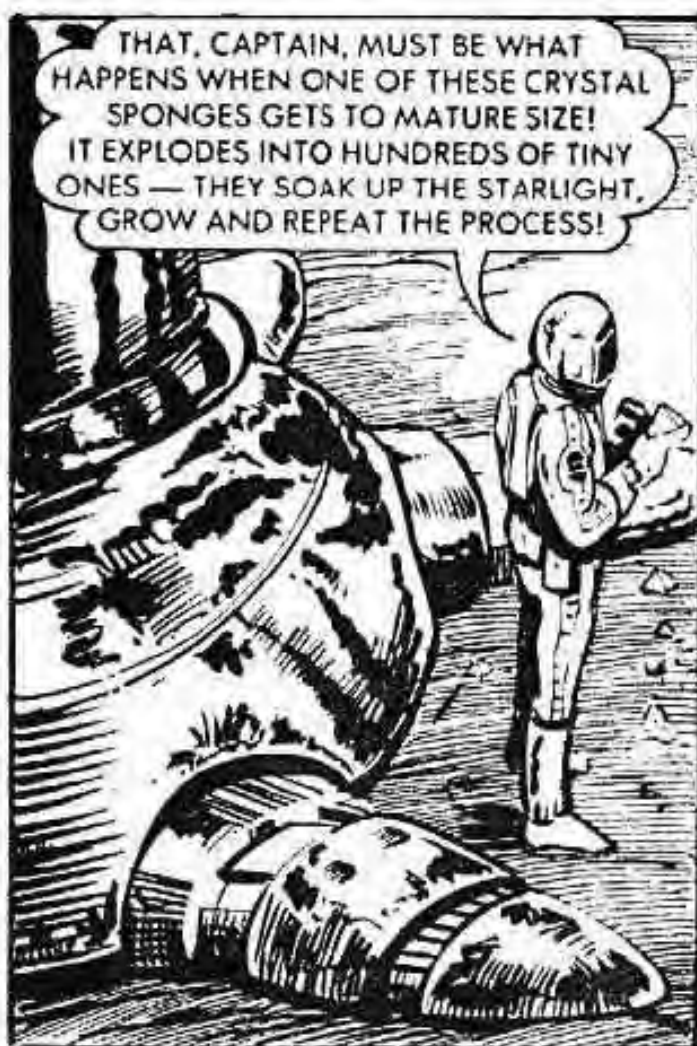
THEY LOOKED AT A SHATTERED LANDSCAPE LIT BY THEIR FLOODLIGHTS AND THE BURNING TUG —



SECTIONS OF WRECKAGE WERE CUT AND RAISED INTO PLACE ON GRAVITY JACKS. SLOWLY THE HOLE WAS SEALED.







START COLLECTING! I WANT A HOLD FULL OF THESE 'ENERGY SPONGES' BEFORE I LEAVE THIS PLANET! THEY'LL BE HARMLESS IF WE KEEP THEM IN TOTAL DARKNESS.



AS THEY LEFT THE PLANET AND WARPED BACK TOWARDS ARCOS, STORM EXPLAINED HIS PLAN.

IF WE CAN CRASH THIS LOAD ON THE MOON, THE SPONGES SHOULD RIP IT APART IN HOURS.



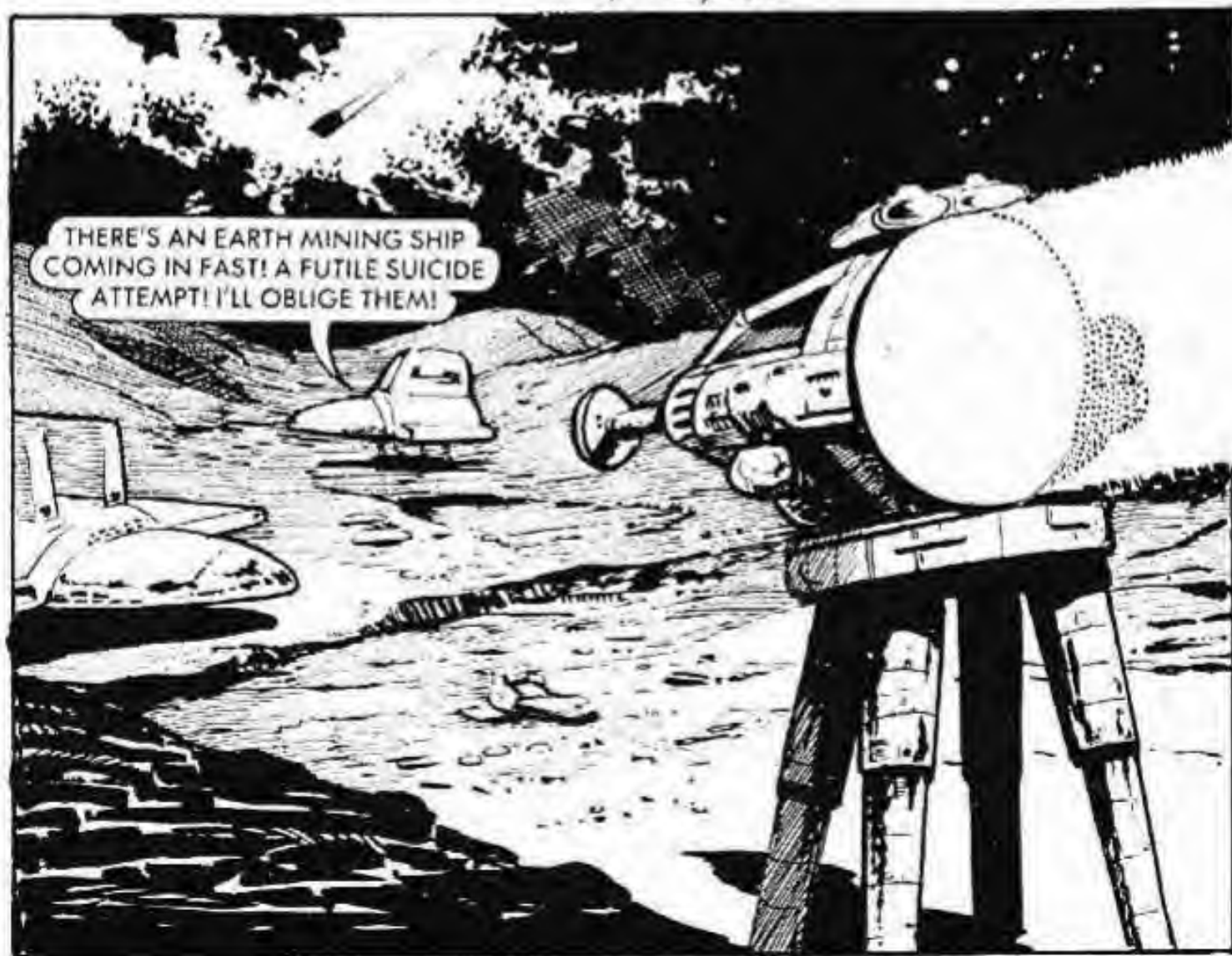
AS THEY CAME IN VID RANGE...

THEY'VE GOT THE BEAMER WORKING, BUT IT'LL TAKE A LONG TIME FOR IT TO DO ITS JOB.

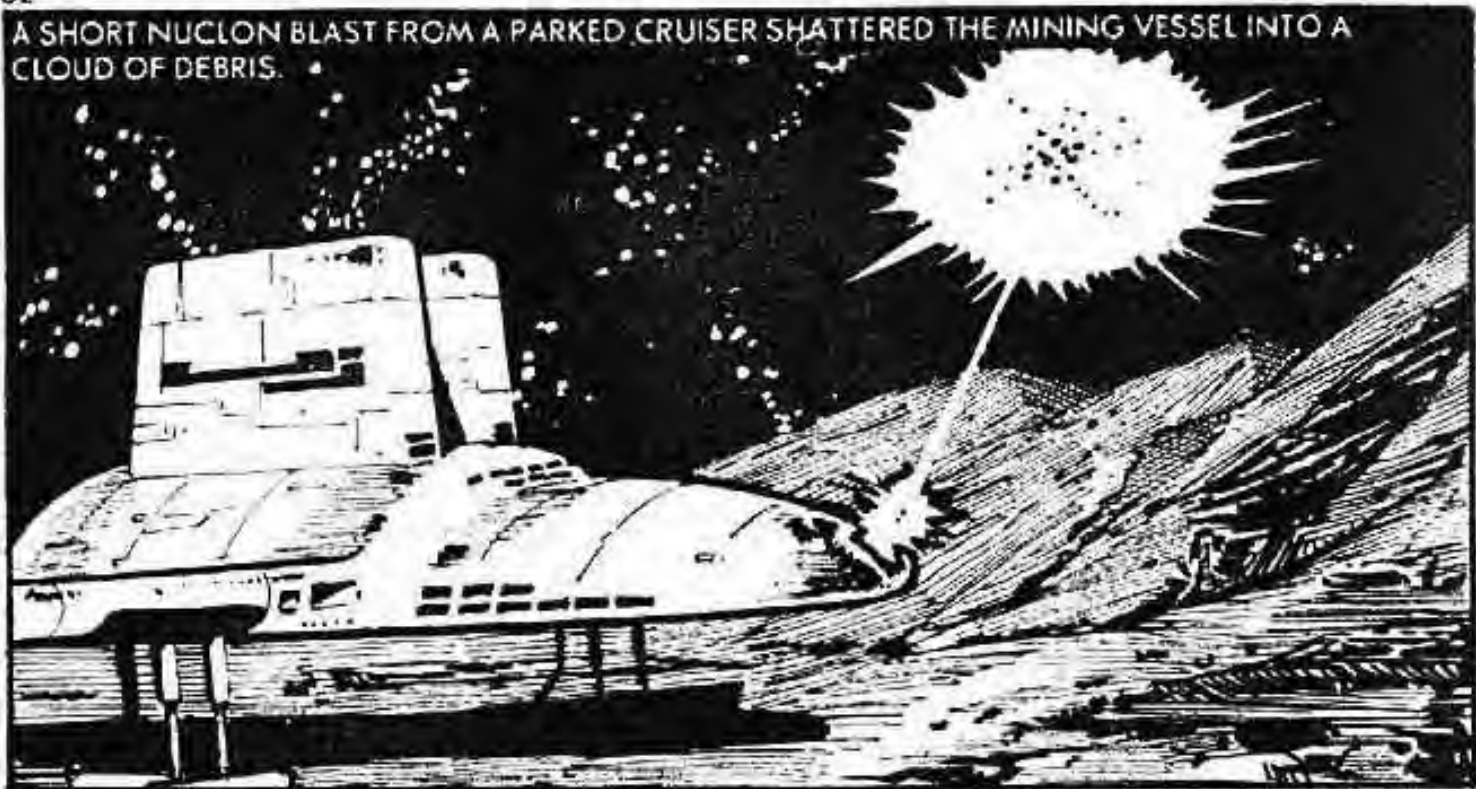


AT THE EXTREME RANGE OF THEIR ESCAPE CAPSULE THE SPACERS LEFT THE SHIP —

WE'LL JUST MAKE IT TO ARCOS. I'VE ORDERED THE SHIP TO GET AS CLOSE AS IT CAN TO THE BEAMER.

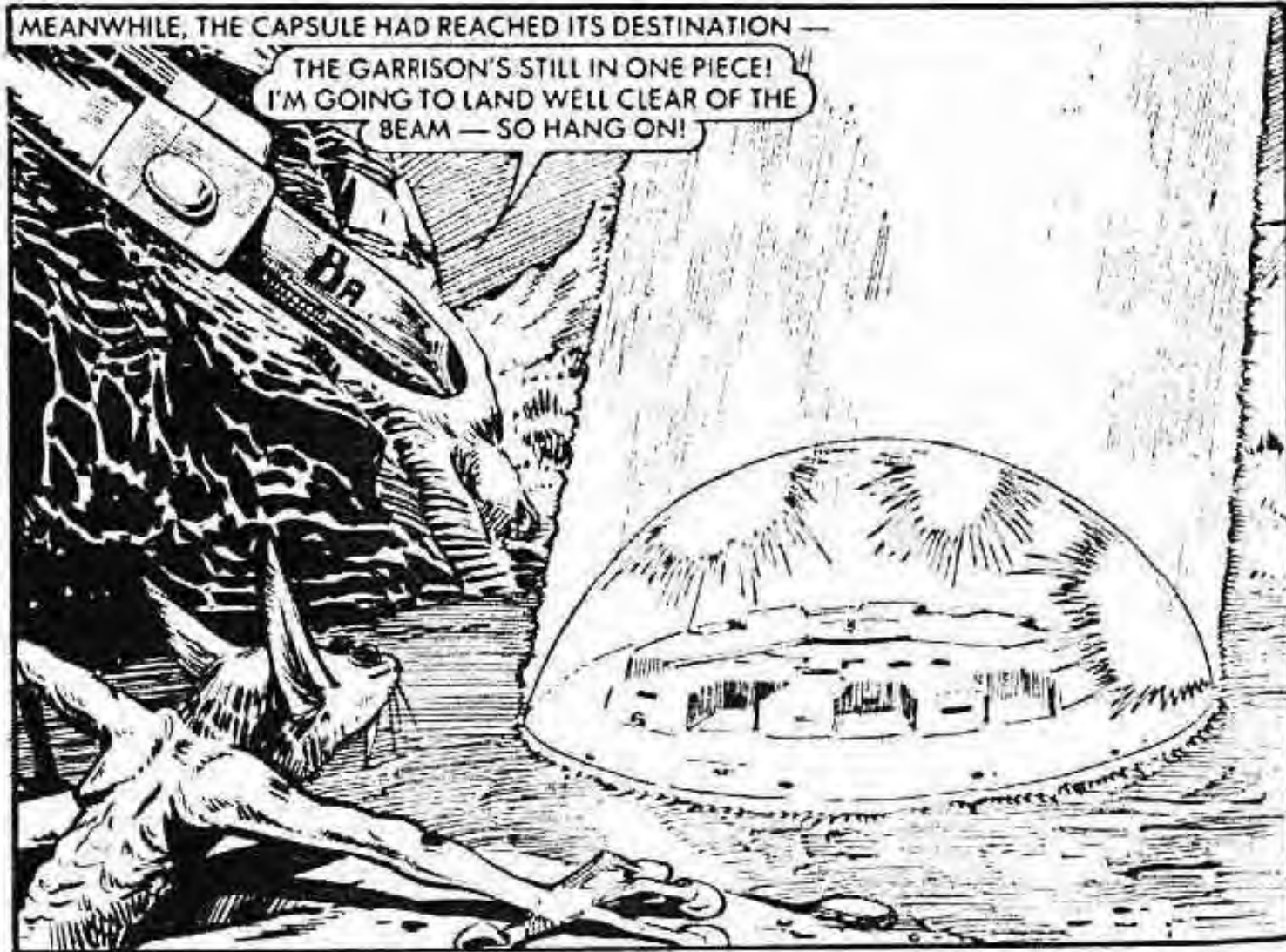


A SHORT NUCLON BLAST FROM A PARKED CRUISER SHATTERED THE MINING VESSEL INTO A CLOUD OF DEBRIS.

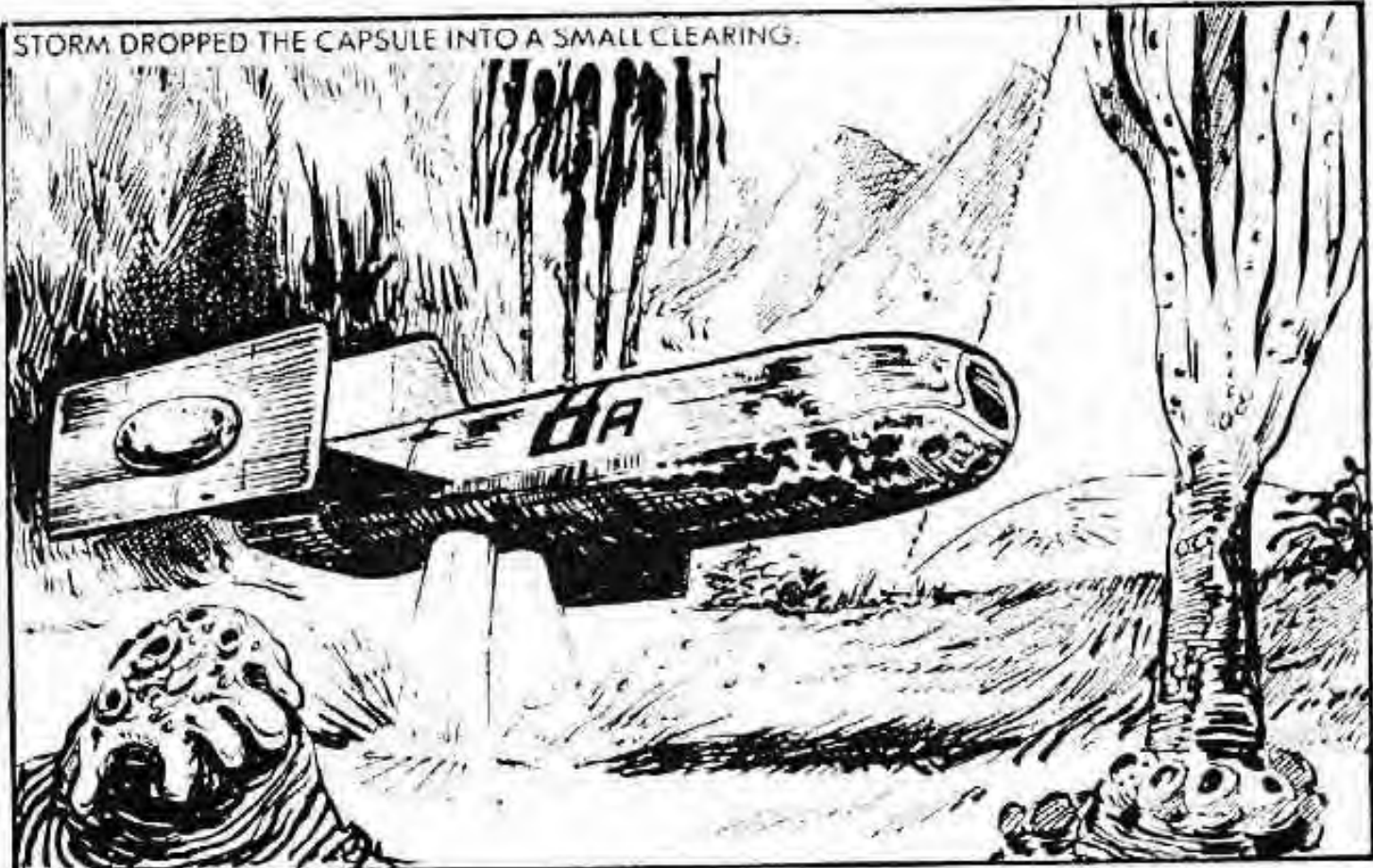


MEANWHILE, THE CAPSULE HAD REACHED ITS DESTINATION —

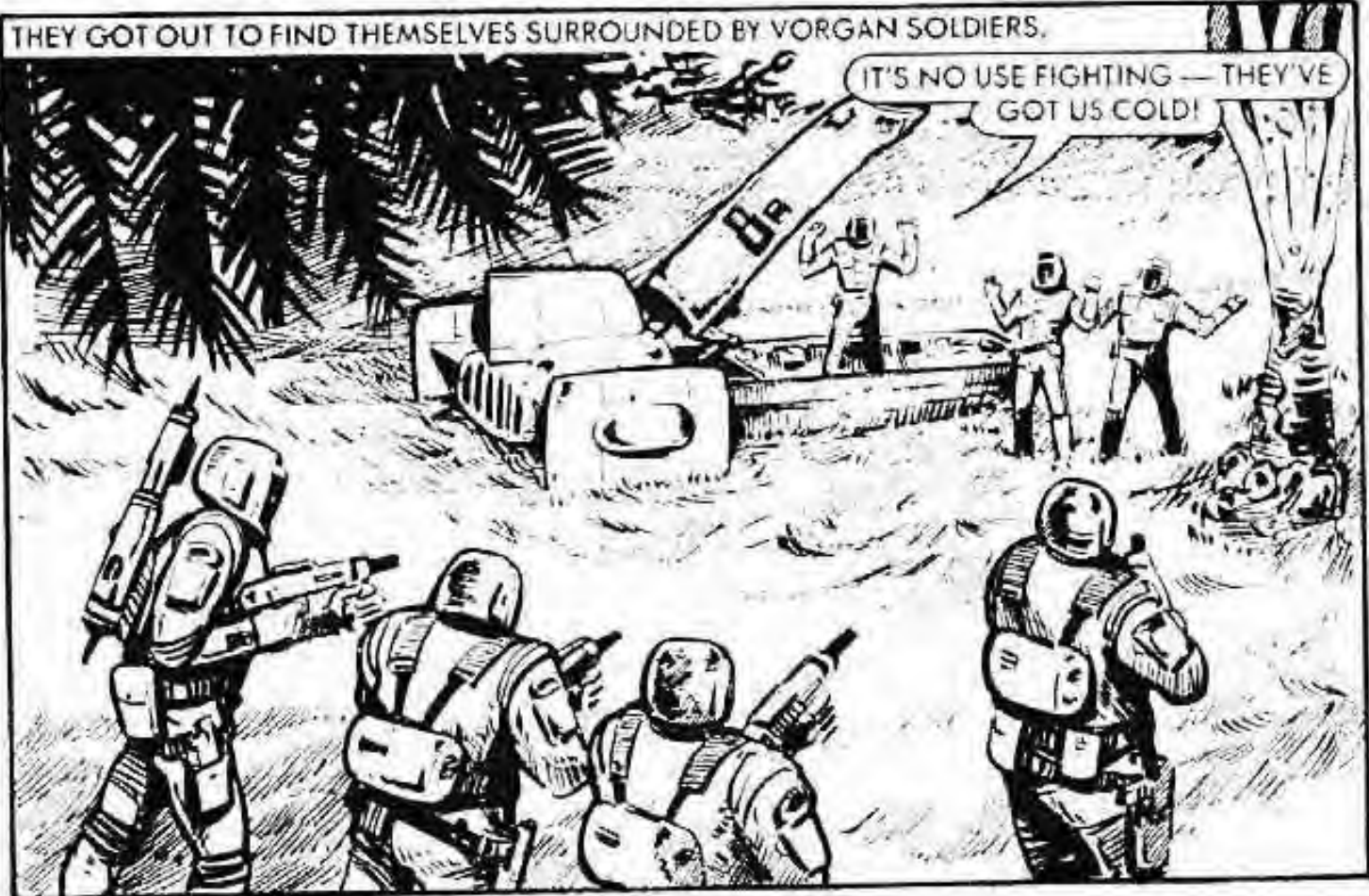
THE GARRISON'S STILL IN ONE PIECE!
I'M GOING TO LAND WELL CLEAR OF THE
BEAM — SO HANG ON!



STORM DROPPED THE CAPSULE INTO A SMALL CLEARING.



THEY GOT OUT TO FIND THEMSELVES SURROUNDED BY VORGAN SOLDIERS.



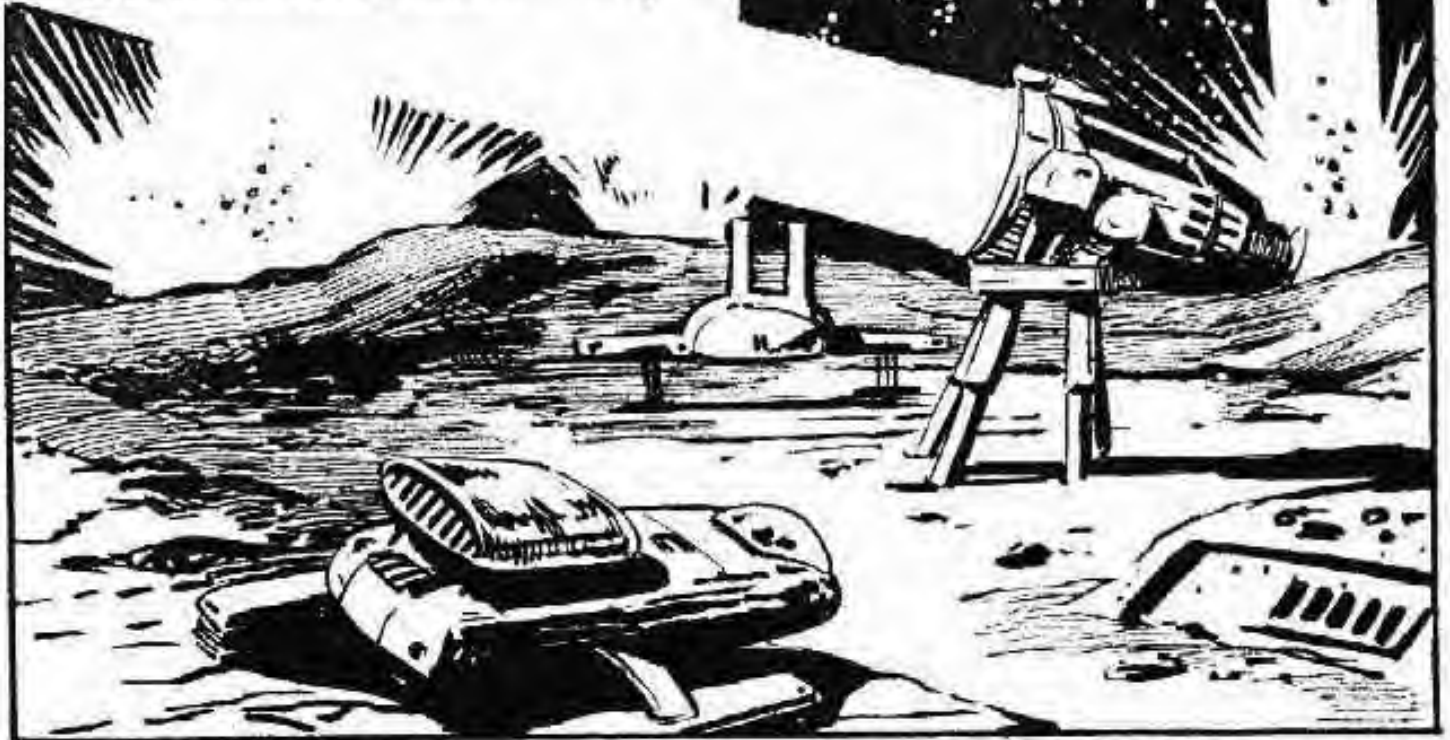
IT'S NO USE FIGHTING — THEY'VE GOT US COLD!



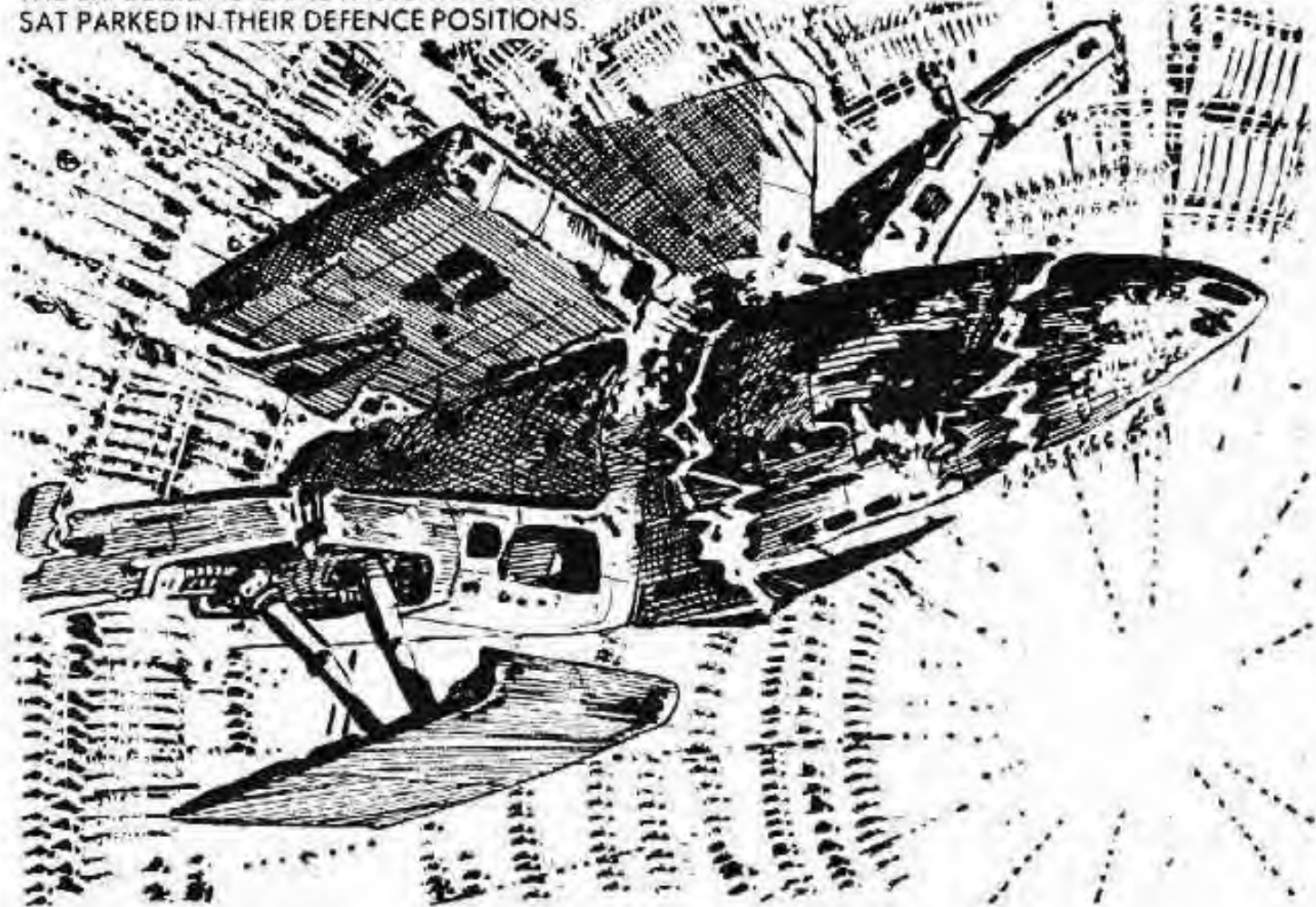




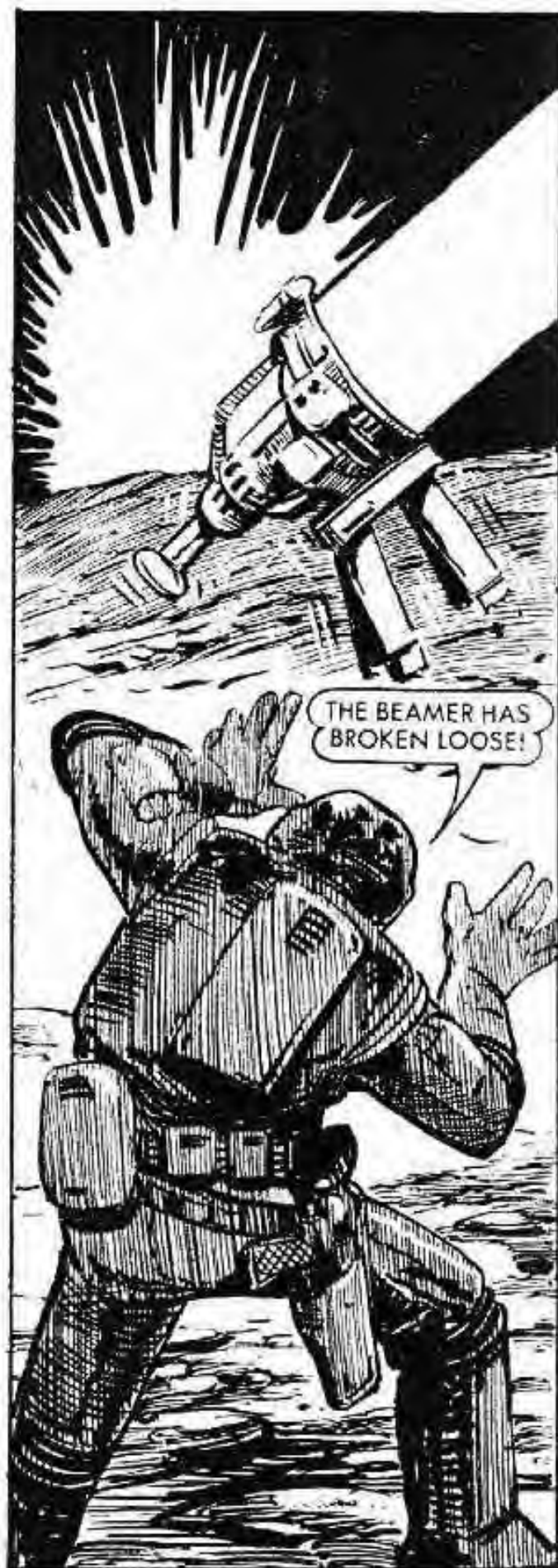
IN THE POWERFUL SUNLIGHT THE ENERGY SPONGES GREW AT FANTASTIC SPEED AND THEN EXPLODED LIKE NUCLEAR BOMBS —



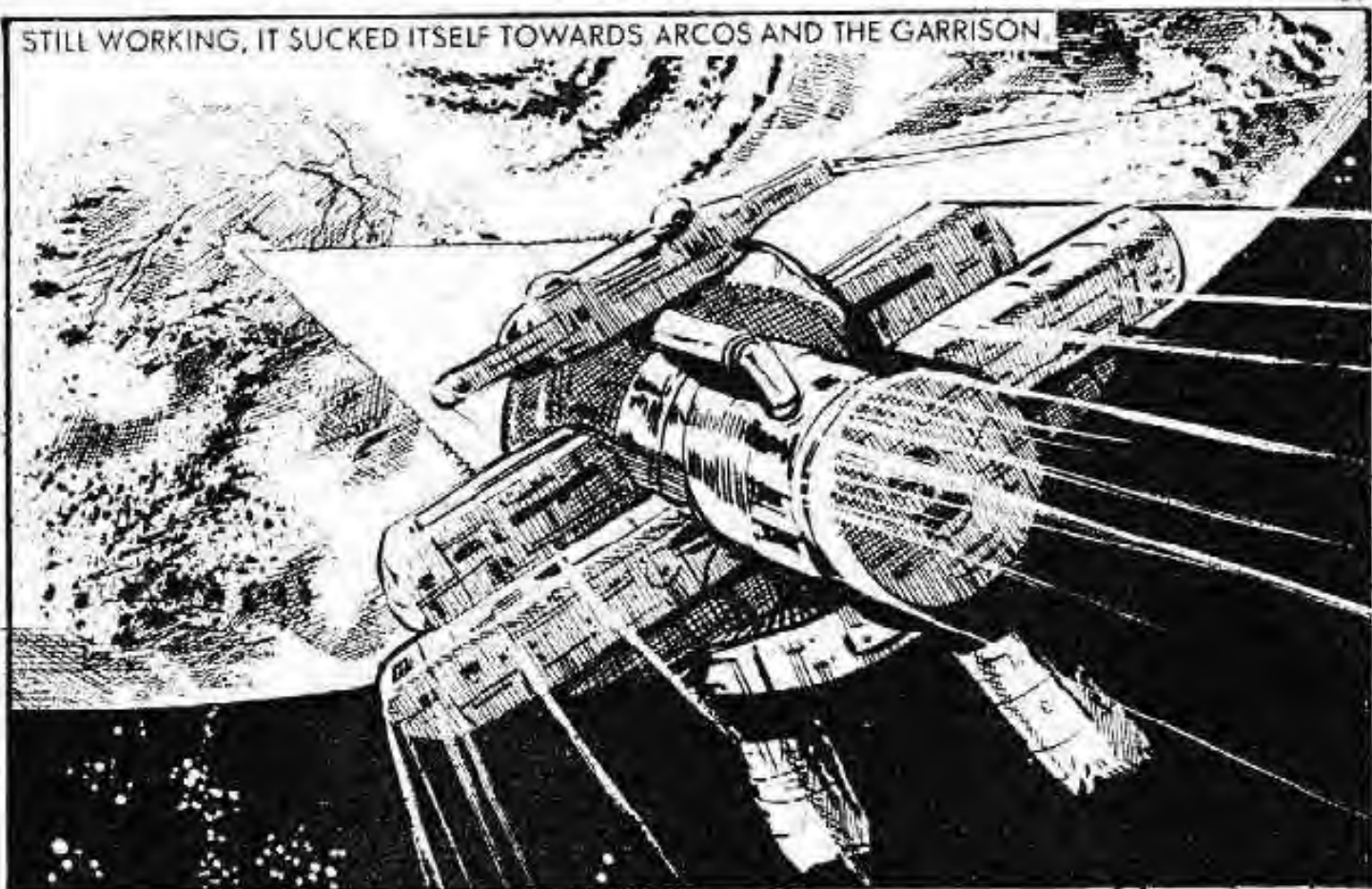
THE EXPLOSIONS CAME FASTER AND CLOSER RIPPING INTO THE VORGAN SHIPS AS THEY SAT PARKED IN THEIR DEFENCE POSITIONS.



THEN THE BEAMER SUPPORTS BEGAN TO BREAK
UP —



STILL WORKING, IT SUCKED ITSELF TOWARDS ARCOS AND THE GARRISON.



STORM AND THE BEWILDERED VORGANS WATCHED AS FIRE FILLED THE SKY —



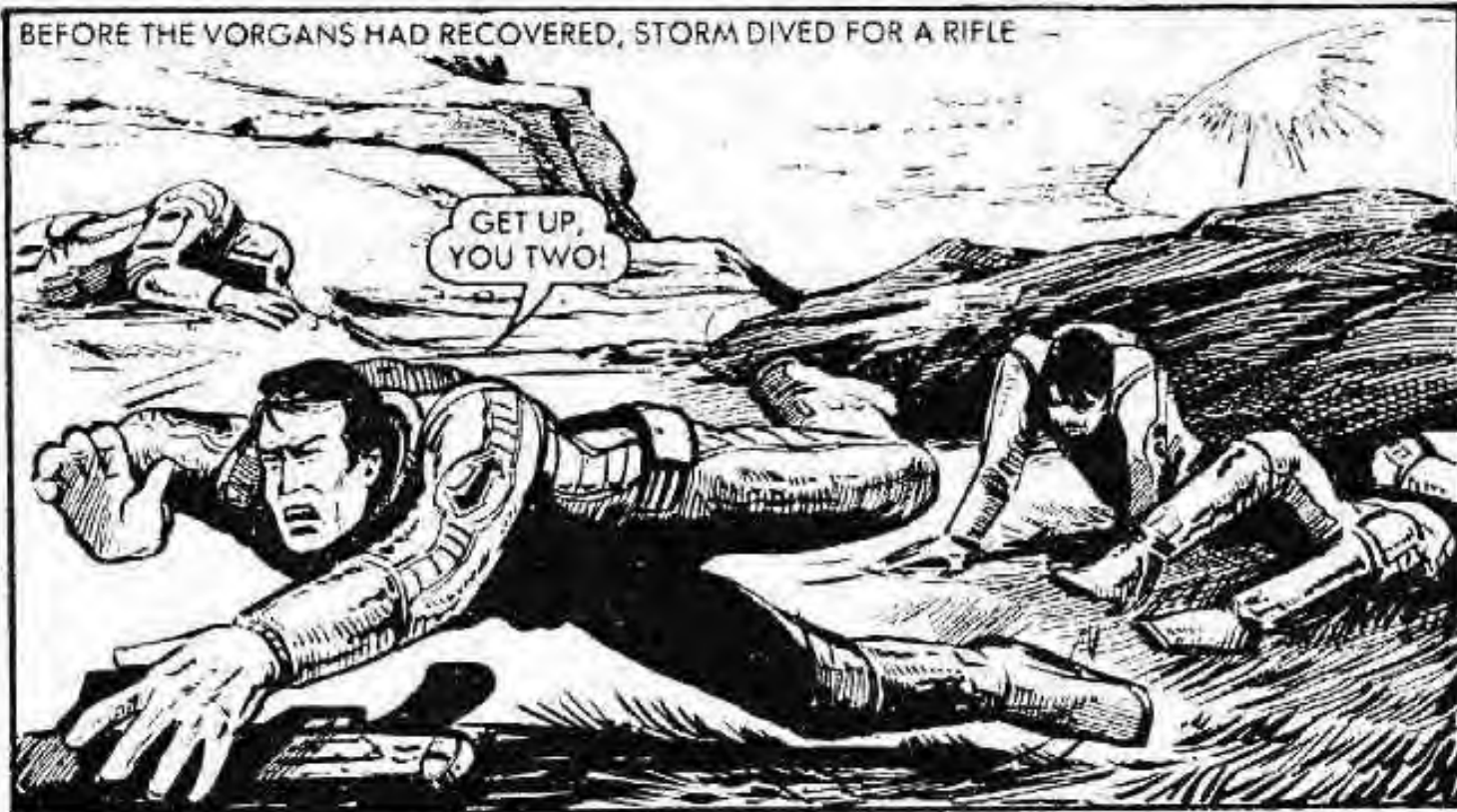
— AND DIED ON THE GARRISON'S IMPREGNABLE FORCE-FIELD DOME.



A RUBBLE-FILLED SHOCKWAVE BLASTED THE SOLDIERS OFF THEIR FEET.



BEFORE THE VORGANS HAD RECOVERED, STORM DIVED FOR A RIFLE —



MAKE FOR THE GARRISON! JUMP THE CLIFF — IT'S OUR ONLY CHANCE!



THE THRUSTERS ON THEIR SPACE PACKS ACTED LIKE PARACHUTES.





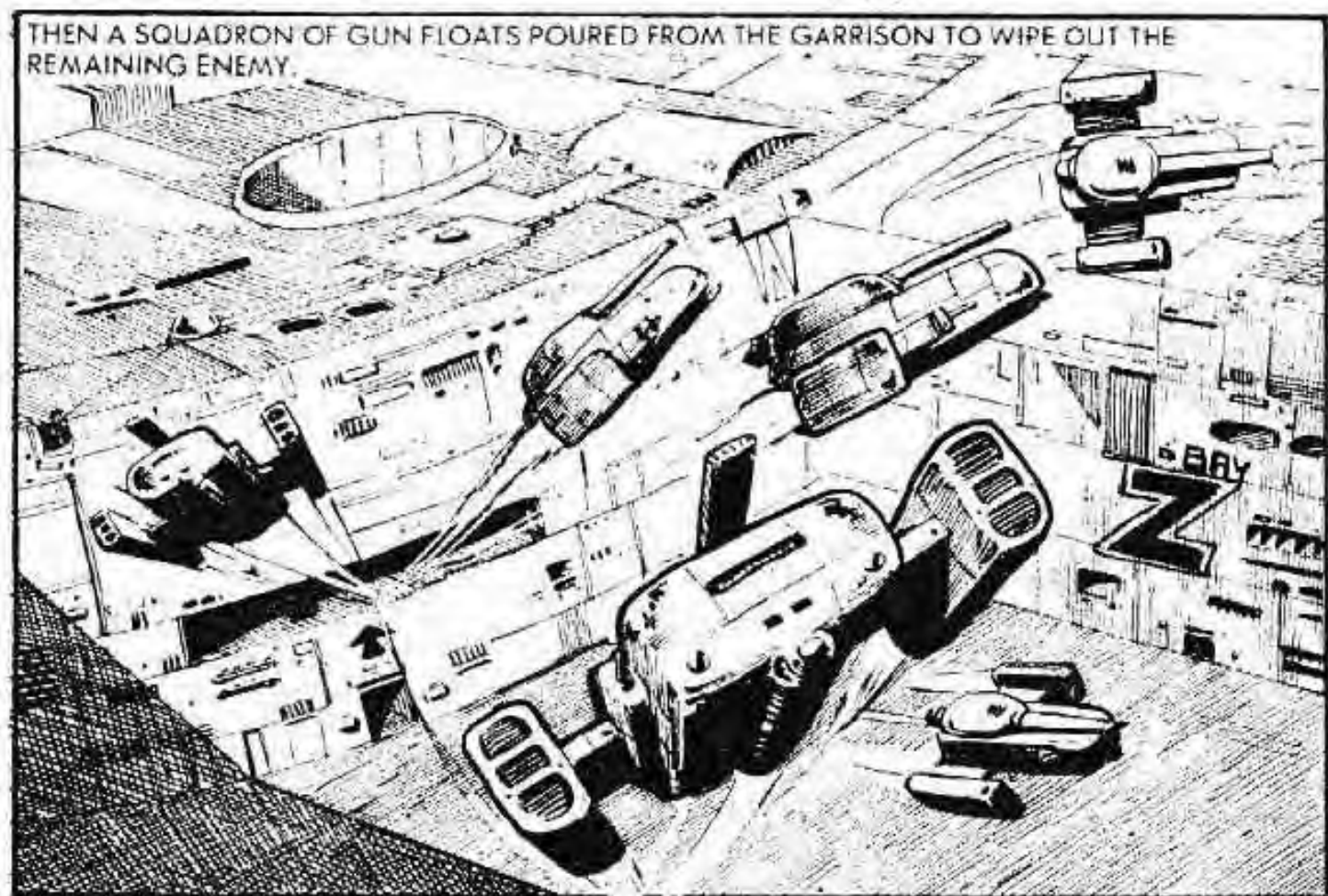
AS THEY AWAITED DEATH A SHOWER OF TINY MISSILES FLEW BY THEIR HEADS —



HOMERS WERE ANTI PERSONNEL MISSILES THAT COULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FRIEND AND FOE — THEY TARGETED IN ON THE GLOATING VORGANS.

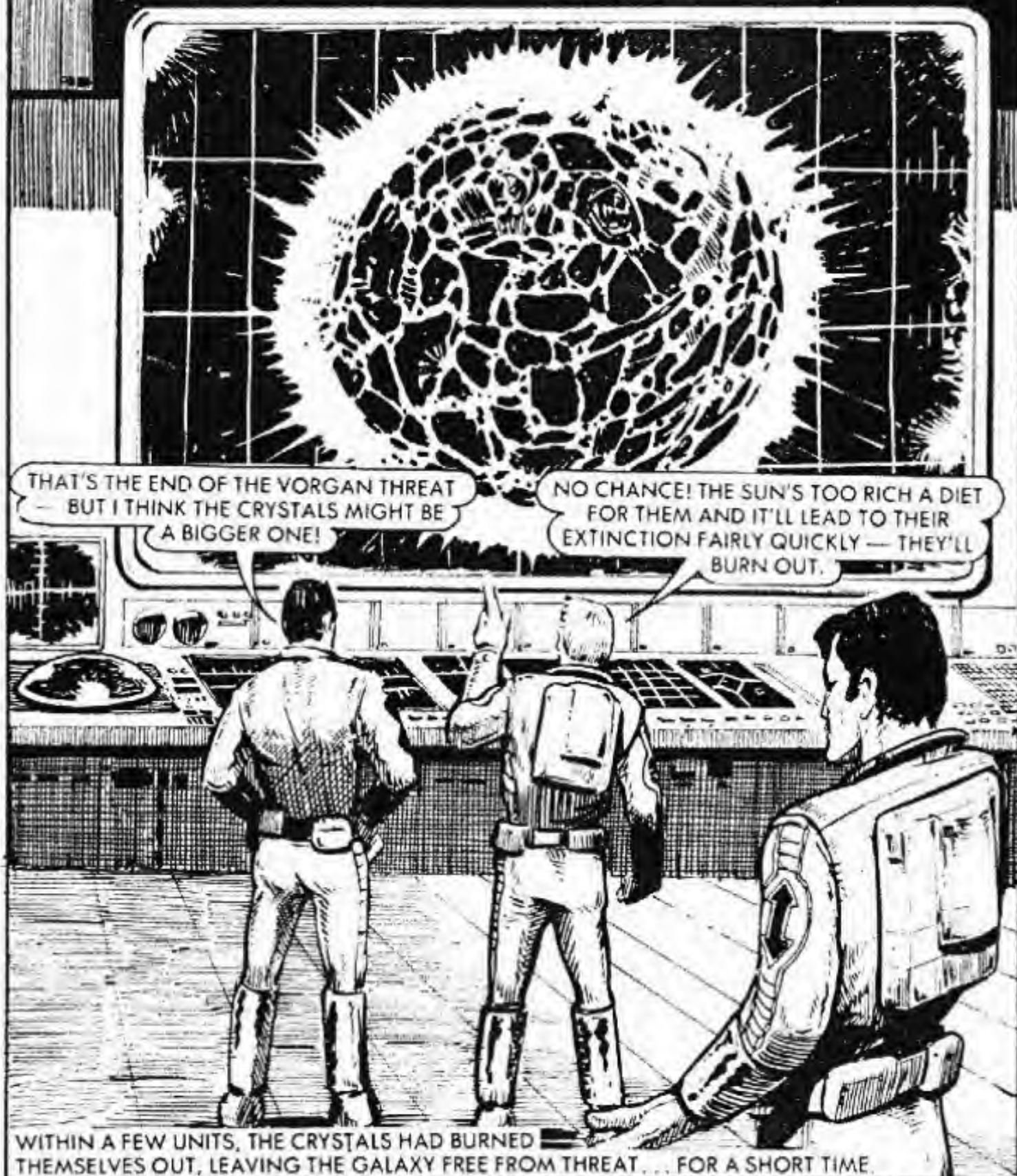


THEN A SQUADRON OF GUN FLOATS POURED FROM THE GARRISON TO WIPE OUT THE REMAINING ENEMY.





EVEN AS THEY WATCHED THE STRESSES SET UP BY THE MULTIPLYING CRYSTALS CAUSED THE MOON TO SPLIT.



**DON'T
MISS**

**THIS MONTH'S
OTHER ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE**

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 99



**THE
FLOATING
CITIES
OF
NEXIOS**

**NOW
ON
SALE**

STARBLAZER'S

GUIDE TO THE SPACEMEN I



The pilot of the first manned flight into space on 12th April 1961 was Russian Air Force Lieutenant, YURI ALEXEYEVICH GAGARIN, 27. Gagarin was born on March 9, 1934 in Khushino Smolensk and joined the first cosmonaut detachment in 1960. His flight on Vostok 1 took 1 hr., 48 min. An air crash claimed his life on March 27, 1968.